伊藤潤二 恐怖マンガ Collection

[14] トンネル奇譚

朝日ソノラマ

伊藤潤二・恐怖マンガCOLLECTION 14 トンネル奇譚

朝日ソノラマ

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朝日ソノラマ

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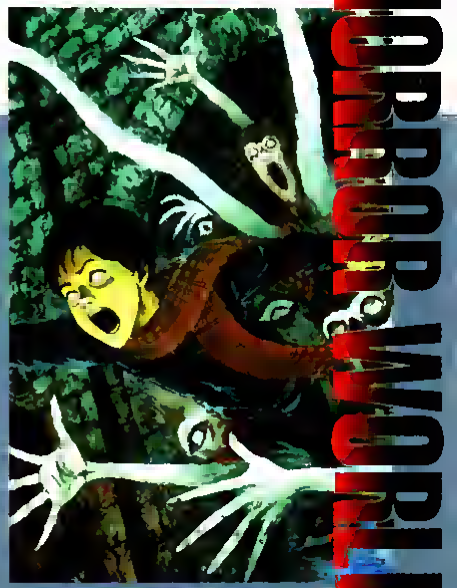
THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI



[14] トンネル奇譚

長い夢

トンネル奇譚

銅像

浮遊物

白砂村血譚

THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

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伊藤潤二・恐怖マンガCOLLECTION⑭ トンネル奇譚

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THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

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[14] トンネル奇譚

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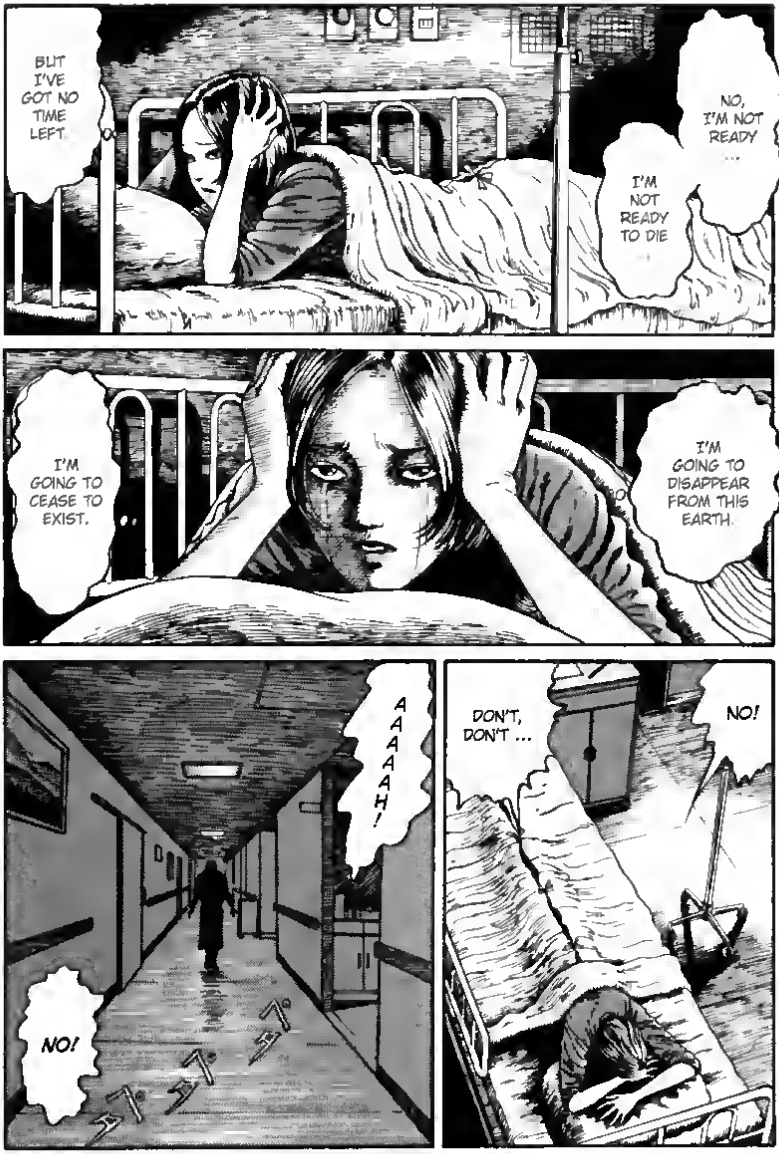
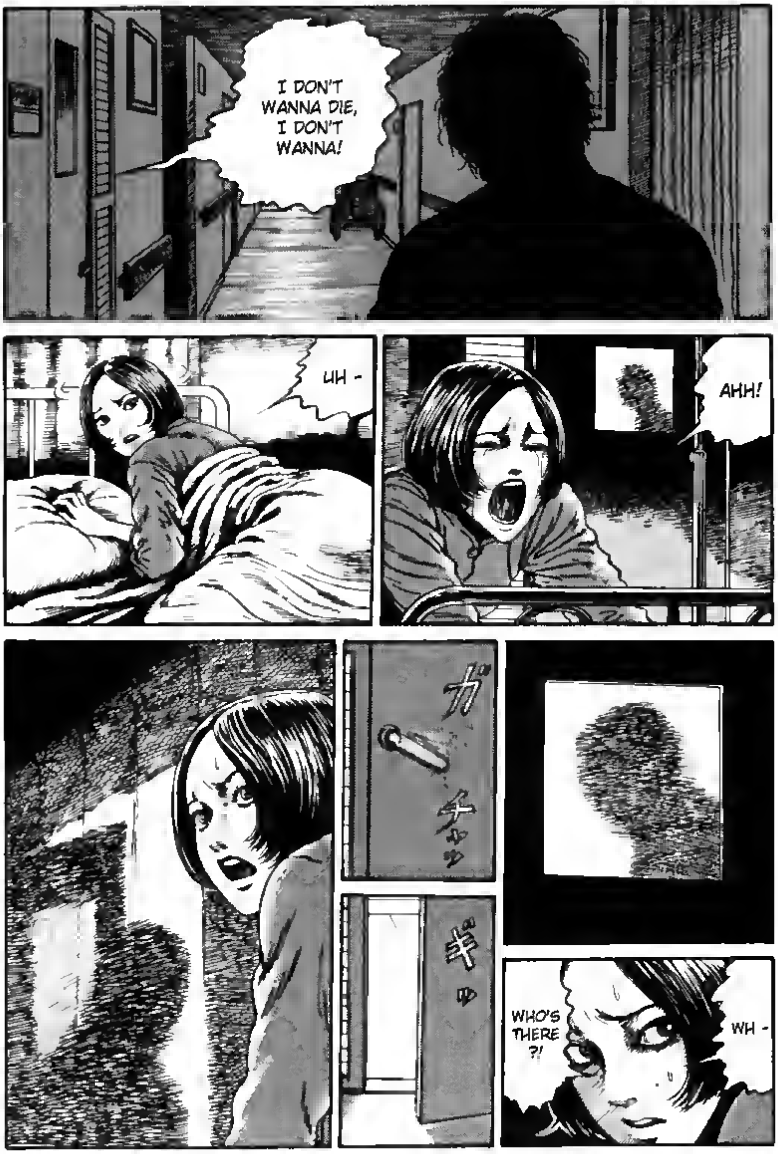

BUT I'VE GOT NO TIME LEFT.
NO, I'M NOT READY ...
I'M NOT READY TO DIE
I'M GOING TO CEASE TO EXIST.
I'M GOING TO DISAPPEAR FROM THIS EARTH.
AAAAAH!
NO!
DON'T, DON'T ...
NO!


I DON'T WANNA DIE, I DON'T WANNA!
UH -
AHH!
ガ
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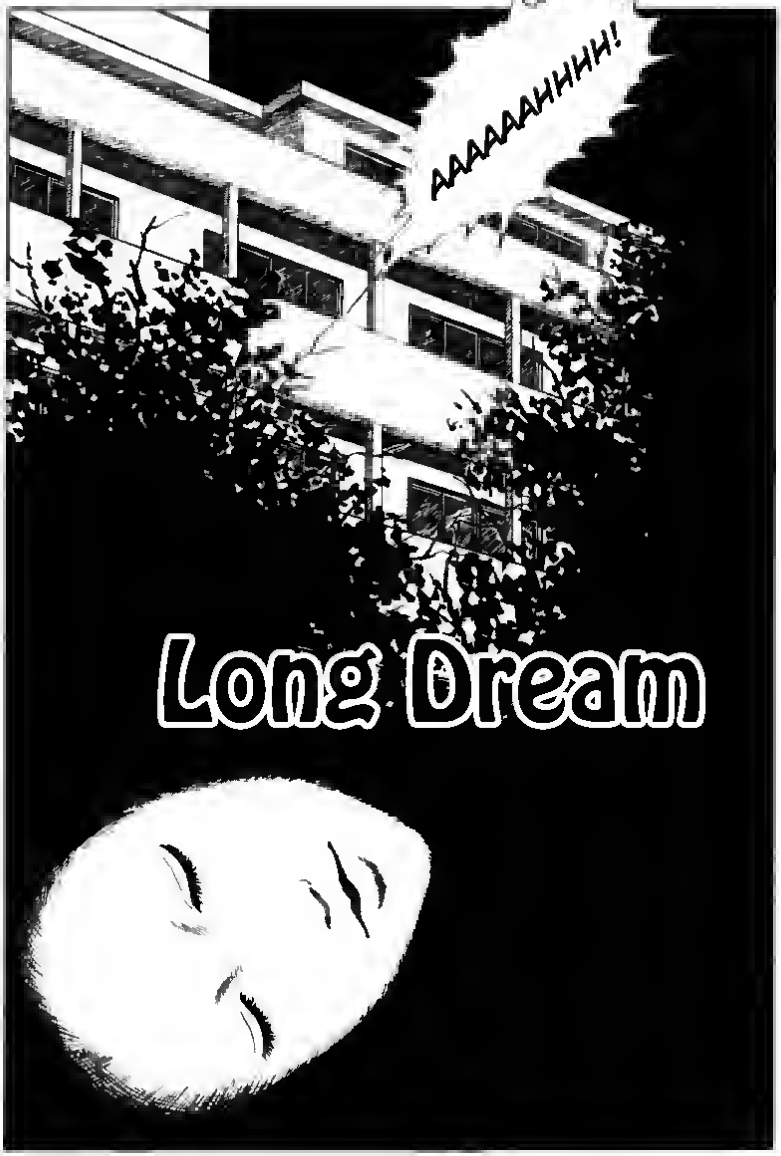
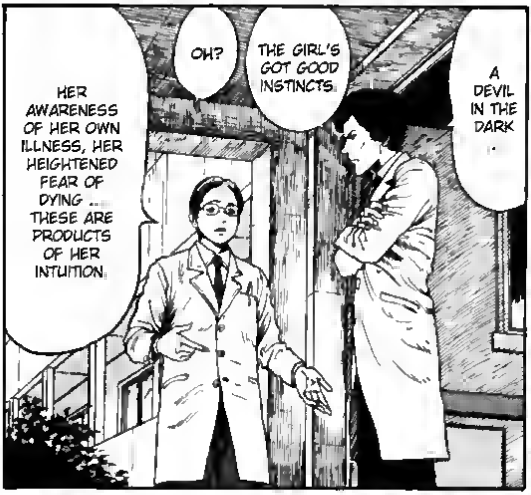
ギッ
WHO'S THERE ?!
WH -

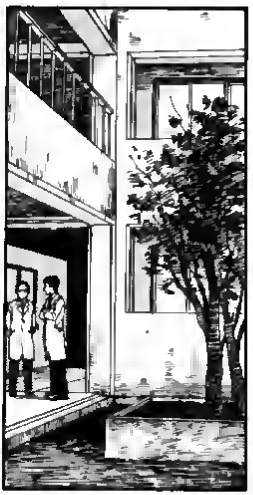


TRANSLATED BY DANIEL LAU
EDITED BY NAEREID
DANIEL-LAU.COM

AAAH!
NEUROSURGERY WARD
WE'RE USING OUR EVERY RESOURCE TO FIGHT YOUR CONDITION, MAMI.
WE CAN'T GIVE UP HOPE, SO YOU MUSTN'T EITHER.
I WANT TO LIVE, I WANT TO LIVE!
DR. KURODA! SAVE ME, PLEASE!
COME ON ... THAT WASN'T DEATH.
HE WAS JUST A PATIENT FROM ANOTHER WARD.
I EVEN SAW HIM LAST NIGHT! DEATH CAME FOR ME!
BUT IT'S MY TIME ...

LOOK AT HIS FACE! IT'S TERRIFYING, INHUMAN! A DEVIL IN THE DARK!
NO! THAT MAN IS NOT OF THIS WORLD!


OH?
THE GIRL'S GOT GOOD INSTINCTS.
A DEVIL IN THE DARK.
HER AWARENESS OF HER OWN ILLNESS, HER HEIGHTENED FEAR OF DYING ... THESE ARE PRODUCTS OF HER INTUITION.



HM HE'LL WAKE SOON.
SHALL WE TAKE A LOOK?

HOW IS THE PATIENT DOING NOW?
BUT IF HE'S STARTED WALKING THE HALLS AT NIGHT, THAT IS A WORRY. PERHAPS HE'S TOO AFRAID TO SLEEP.

LET'S HEAD OVER THERE. WALK AND TALK.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE NEW HERE, AREN'T YOU.
BUT HE DOES SEEM INTERESTING. DR. KURODA, COULD YOU TELL ME MORE?
I MUST CONFESS I'M NOT TOO FAMILIAR WITH HIS CASE.
HE'S HAD SOME UNIQUE DREAMS, I HEAR.
HE'S BEEN HERE FOR AROUND TWO MONTHS.
HIS NAME IS TETSURO MUKODA.
HE TOLD ME HE'S BEEN HAVING LONG DREAMS.

LONG . DREAMS.
HOW LONG DO YOU FEEL THEY LAST FOR?
LET'S SEE THEY FIRST BEGAN ABOUT A MONTH AGO.
AND EVERY DREAM FELT LIKE IT SPANNED 2 OR 3 DAYS.
HM.
SO EVERY TIME YOU WOKE UP YOU FELT LIKE IT HAD LASTED A WHILE.
NO IT WAS INSIDE THE DREAM THAT I FELT TIME DRAG ON.
I FELT IT.
I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT MYSELF AT FIRST.
BUT WITH EVERY PASSING DAY, THE DREAMS GREW LONGER.
HAD THEY ALL BEEN PLEASANT DREAMS, I WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED. BUT THE NIGHTMARES ...
THEY GREW STRANGER, AND I STARTED LOSING IT.

EVERY NIGHT, ABOUT A YEAR.
HOW LONG DO YOUR DREAMS LAST?
HUH AND NOW?
YOU MUST BELIEVE ME, DOCTOR
A WHOLE YEAR.
WOW.
I WAS BARELY ABLE TO KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL AT THAT POINT.
I THOUGHT HE WAS LYING, OR AT WORST THAT SOME KIND OF MENTAL CONDITION HAD LED HIM TO BELIEVE A LIE.
A YEAR PASSING BY IN ONE NIGHT. IT WAS ABSURD.
FOR ME, IT'S LIKE TRYING TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR.
MY DAY TO DAY LIFE IS SEVERELY IMPAIRED - I CAN BARELY REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.
HMM.

IN ANY CASE, I DECIDED TO ADMIT THE MAN AND OBSERVE HIS SLEEPING PATTERNS.
AND SO IT BEGAN.
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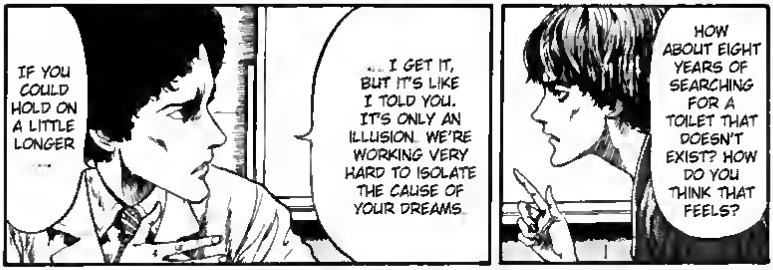
ACCORDING TO BRAIN WAVE READ-OUTS, IT WAS THEN THAT HE WAS IN HIS DEEPEST SLEEP.
BUT IT WAS OVER AS SOON AS IT HAD BEGUN.
HIS ENTIRE BODY CONVULSED, AND HIS EYES DARTED FRANTICALLY.
MM
HEY!
I HAD TO WAKE HIM THEN AND THERE.
WERE YOU DREAM-ING JUST THEN?
HEY!
GET UP! YOU MUST WAKE!
YOU'RE IN HOSPITAL.
WHERE ... AM I?
YOU CHECKED YOURSELF IN YESTERDAY.
HOSPITAL?

.. IT WAS TERRIFYING .. AND IT LASTED A YEAR AND A HALF.
.. OH, I HAD A DREAM ALL RIGHT.
AH, YES .. I REMEMBER NOW ... I WAS IN HOSPITAL, WASN'T I ..
HE WAS TELLING NO LIE, I COULD JUST FEEL IT. THIS MAN MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE HAD A LONG DREAM.
A SHIVER WENT UP MY SPINE.
...
AND YET FOR HIM, THAT ONE MOMENT COULD FEEL LIKE MONTHS AND MONTHS. HENCE THE ILLUSION OF A LONG DREAM
IN THAT INSTANT, HE SEEMED TO BE DREAMING.
WHEN HE FELL INTO A DEEP SLEEP, THERE WAS A BRIEF MOMENT WHERE HE WENT INTO CONVULSIONS.
AS I CONTINUED TO OBSERVE HIM, I COULD ONLY COME TO ONE CONCLUSION.

YOUR PATIENCE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE A GREAT HELP.
HM. WE'RE STILL LOOKING AT HOW BEST TO TREAT YOU.
BUT I STILL DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HE HAD THE DREAMS AT ALL.
MY DREAMS ARE GROWING LONGER AND LONGER.
LAST NIGHT, I DREAMT FOR TEN YEARS, DOCTOR.
DOCTOR? WHEN CAN I EXPECT TO BE CURED?
HOW FILTHY...
YOU HAVE NEVER FELT HOW LONELY THEY ARE...
IN REALITY THEY LAST ONLY AN INSTANT. THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR.
I NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND THIS, MR. MUKODA - YOUR LONG DREAMS ARE JUST AN ILLUSION.
AND HOW TERRIFYING TO BEHOLD.
HOW LONELY...
YOU'RE ONLY SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU HAVE NEVER DREAMED AS I HAVE, DOCTOR.

THE NIGHT BEFORE THAT I WAS STUCK CRAMMING FOR TESTS
NINE YEARS OF ENDLESS EXAMS AND ALL-NIGHTERS.
LAST NIGHT I WAS A SOLDIER TRAPPED IN THE JUNGLE, CONSTANTLY ON THE RUN FROM THE ENEMY.
TEN LONG YEARS, DOCTOR, SO VERY LONG...


IF YOU COULD HOLD ON A LITTLE LONGER...
...I GET IT, BUT IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU. IT'S ONLY AN ILLUSION. WE'RE WORKING VERY HARD TO ISOLATE THE CAUSE OF YOUR DREAMS.
HOW ABOUT EIGHT YEARS OF SEARCHING FOR A TOILET THAT DOESN'T EXIST? HOW DO YOU THINK THAT FEELS?

...
WERE THAT TO HAPPEN, I CAN'T SAY WHAT WOULD BECOME OF ME.
ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR. BUT IF YOU DON'T HURRY, IT WON'T BE LONG UNTIL MY DREAMS DRAG OUT TO A HUNDRED OR TWO HUNDRED YEARS.

WE COULD SEE THAT MUCH WITH OUR OWN EYES.
FOR EXAMPLE -
AS WE HAD FEARED, THE PERCEIVED LENGTH OF HIS DREAMS WAS RAPIDLY GROWING.
IT WAS LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO TALK TO SOMEONE FROM ANOTHER CENTURY.
AFTER A MONTH, HE WOULD WAKE UP EVERY DAY SPEAKING WITH A DIFFERENT INTONATION THAN HE HAD BEFORE.
IT WAS AS IF FIFTY YEARS HAD PASSED OVER-NIGHT.
AFTER HIS TWENTIETH DAY AT THE HOSPITAL, HE COULD REMEMBER ONLY WITH GREAT STRAIN THE EVENTS OF THE PREVIOUS DAY.
HE SEEMED LOST IN A DIFFERENT TIME AND SPACE TO OUR OWN.
HIS BRAIN SHOWED SIGNS OF ACTUALLY HAVING EXPERIENCED SUCH LENGTHS OF TIME.

PHYSI-CALLY ...?
THAT'S RIGHT. WHICH BRINGS US TO NOW.
EVEN HIS BODY ITSELF IS PHYSICALLY CHANGING
IT LOOKS AS IF HE HAS EVOLVED OVER AN EXTENDED TIME
RECENTLY, THINGS HAVE GOTTEN EVEN WORSE
IT'S THIS ONE.
MR. MUKODA? ARE YOU AWAKE?

WHERE ... IS THIS PLACE?
WHO ARE YOU?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER? MY NAME IS KURODA.
I'M YOUR DOCTOR.

NOOOOO!
スッ
IT'S POSSIBLE HE BELIEVES HIMSELF STILL DREAMING.
HE'S BEEN ACTING LIKE THIS LATELY, EVERY TIME HE WAKES.
..?
...
MAMI, MY LOVE! WHERE IS SHE?!
WHERE IS MAMI?
...
WE'VE BEEN MARRIED THOUSANDS OF YEARS, AND SHE'S NEVER LEFT MY SIDE!
?!

AND YOU! YOU'RE THE MAN WHO TRIED TO KEEP US APART!
YES, YES! THIS MUST BE THE HOSPITAL WHERE FIRST WE MET!
ALL THOSE YEARS AGO, WE MET AND FELL IN LOVE IN HER ROOM HERE.
WHERE ARE YOU HIDING HER?!
!
MAMI!
WHERE ARE YOU?!

- HE DREAMED OF HER! HE DREAMED OF MARRYING HER!
AFTER SEEING HER IN HER ROOM THAT NIGHT -
WE MUST STOP HIM!
DAMMIT! HE'S HEADED FOR MAMI'S ROOM!
MAMI!
MAMI!
AND IN HIS MIND, THEY'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR CENTURIES.
HE CAN NO LONGER TELL DREAM FROM REALITY.
I DON'T WANT TO ..
IT'S TIME TO EAT.
COME ON, DEAR

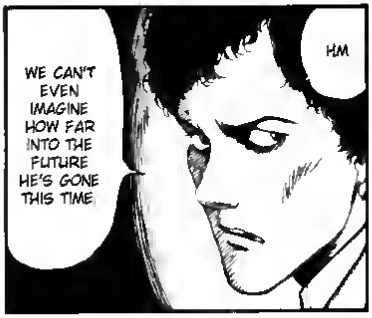
MAMIII! MAMIII!
I WON'T DIE!
NO, NO, NO!
MAMIII...
AAAAHHHHHH!

NOOO!
MR. MUKODA!
MAMI ...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
MAMI?
IT'S DEATH!
HE'S BACK FOR ME!
DEATH ...
SHE CALLED ME DEATH.
GET OUT! GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM!

THE YEARS WE SPENT TOGETHER ... NOTHING BUT A DREAM.
SO IT WAS ALL A DREAM.
I SEE.
...
I AM A MAN SHE SCREAMS AT AND CALLS DEATH.
IN REALITY, I AM NOT HER HUSBAND.
DR. KURODA.
... WHO WAKES FROM AN ENDLESS DREAM?
WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MAN ...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?
AND THEN ...
I'M SCARED, DOCTOR. IF THESE DREAMS KEEP GETTING LONGER ...
PERHAPS ONE DAY THEY WILL NEVER END.

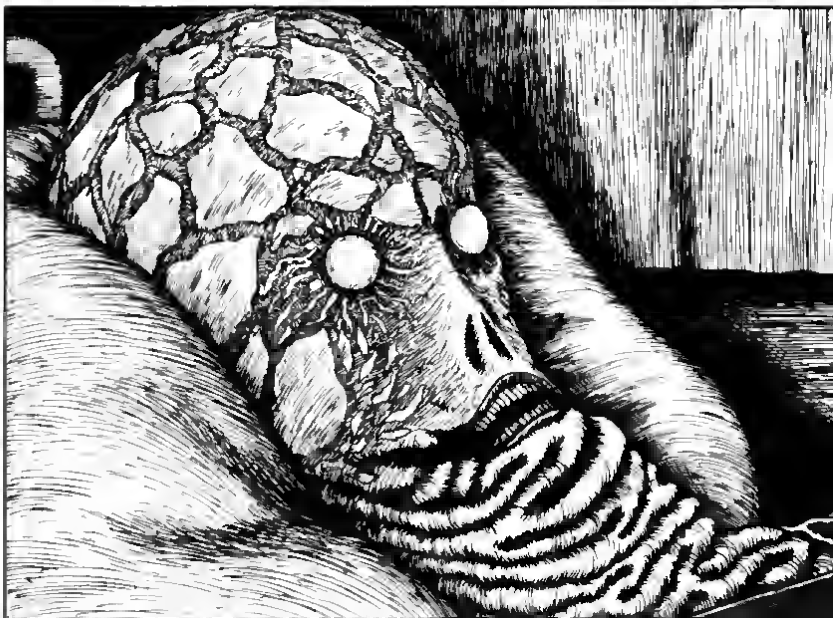
AAAHH!
I DON'T WANNA!
MAMI ...
I DON'T WANNA DIE!
NOOOO!
AAAAHHH!
NOOOO!

IS THERE ANY NEWS OF TETSURO MUKODA?

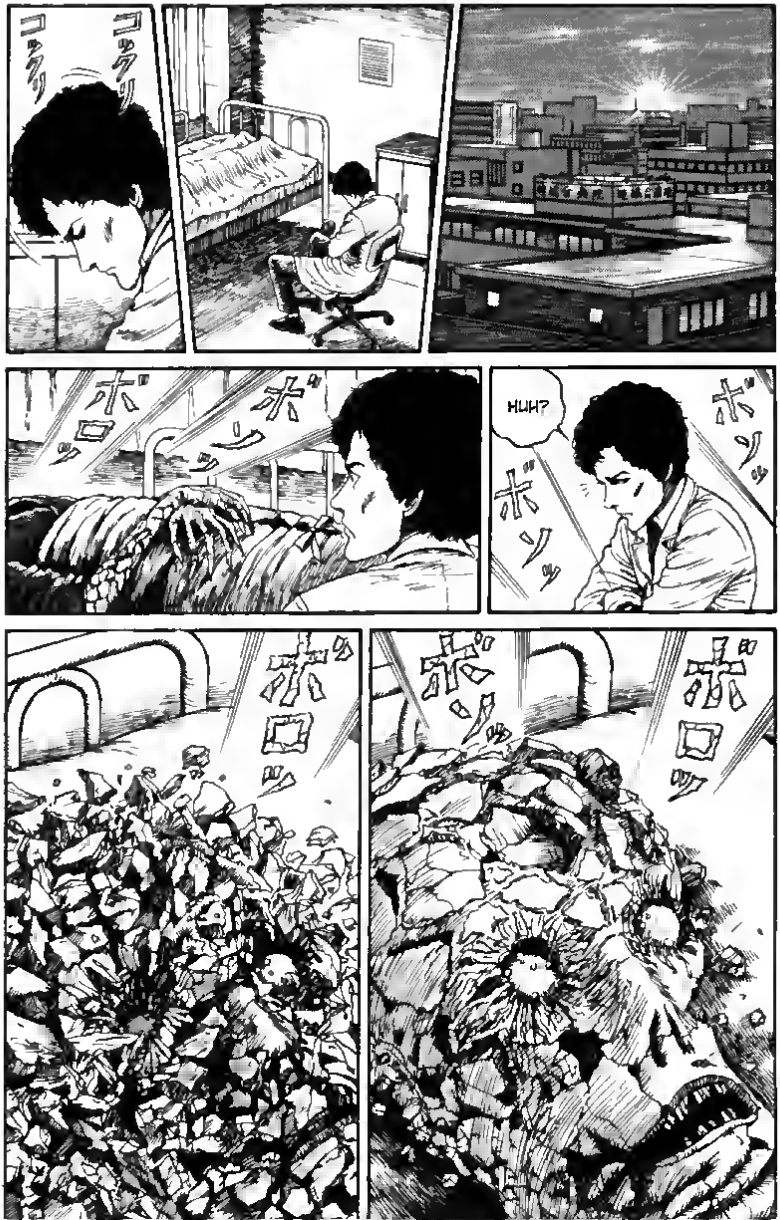

HM
WE CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW FAR INTO THE FUTURE HE'S GONE THIS TIME

THE MOST SEVERE PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE HER FEAR OF DEATH
SHE'S NOT LOOKING TOO GOOD
I'VE NEVER SEEN A PATIENT SO TERRIFIED

ガチャ
LOOK.



WAS IT EVEN POSSIBLE TO WAKE FROM SUCH A DREAM? AND WHAT WOULD HE BE LIKE IF HE DID?
THAT NIGHT, I DIDN'T LEAVE HIS SIDE UNTIL DAWN.
ONE FOUND IT EASY TO BELIEVE HE HAD FALLEN INTO AN ENDLESS DREAM.
ONE NIGHT, WE RECORDED MR. MUKODA'S MOST SEVERE CONVULSIONS AND EYE MOVEMENTS YET.
AN INSTANT. THAT'S ALL IT WAS. COULD AN ETERNITY REALLY LIE WITHIN?
AND WHAT COULD HE HAVE EVEN MEANT BY AN ENDLESS DREAM?
... ONE ONLY NEEDED LOOK AT HIM.
BUT REALLY ...
OR WAS THAT TOO, NOTHING BUT AN ILLUSION.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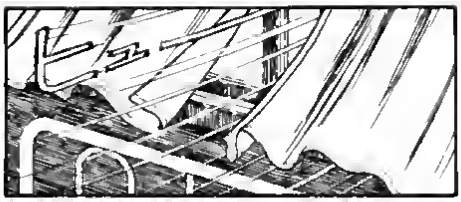
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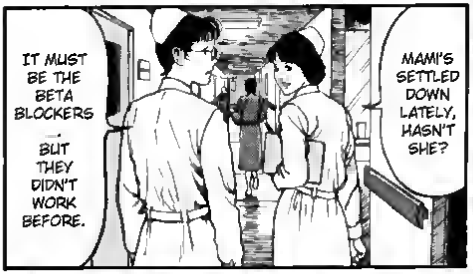
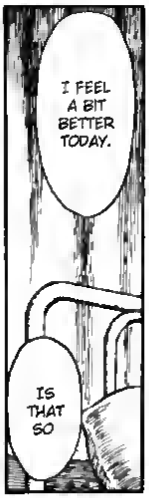
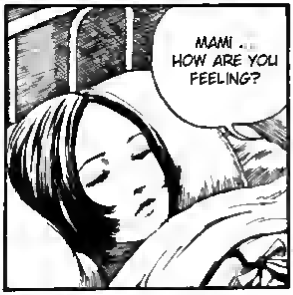
ALL THAT REMAINED WERE THE SCRAPS OF A LIFELESS HUSK.
HIS SPIRIT HAD LONG SINCE DEPARTED FOR THAT ENDLESS DREAM.
AS FOR ME
I TRIED TO FIND THE LINK BETWEEN THESE CRYSTALS AND THE DREAMS HE HAD.
FROM THE CRUMBLED REMAINS OF HIS BRAIN
WE DISCOVERED CRYSTALS OF UNKNOWN PROPERTIES.
TO NO AVAIL.
THE MICROSCOPE WOULD TELL ME NOTHING, NO MATTER HOW HARD I LOOKED.

晩総合


IT MUST BE THE BETA BLOCKERS ... BUT THEY DIDN'T WORK BEFORE.
MAMI'S SETTLED DOWN LATELY, HASN'T SHE?


I FEEL A BIT BETTER TODAY.
IS THAT SO

DR KURODA ...


MAMI ... HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

IT'S REALLY WEIRD ... I'VE BEEN HAVING LONG DREAMS.
JUST ONE THING.
LIKE LIVING OUT A WHOLE MONTH IN A NIGHT.
AND THEY'RE GETTING LONGER AND LONGER.
SHE SAID SHE'S BEEN HAVING LONG DREAMS.
DR. KURODA? IT'S ABOUT MAMI TAKESHIMA. HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY CHANGE IN HER CONDITION?
THE CHANGES WILL BECOME PHYSICAL, I SUPPOSE.
SO YOU'VE NOTICED IT TOO.
JUST LIKE HIS WERE.

WHAT COULD THIS MEAN, DOCTOR?
COULD THERE BE A CHANCE OF CONTAGION?
NO ... I'LL TELL YOU. AND ONLY YOU.
THE SUBSTANCE WE EXTRACTED FROM TETSURO MUKODA ... I'VE BEEN ADMINISTERING TO HER.
WHA -
YOU CAN'T BE ..!
TO FIND ITS TRUE APPLICATION, WE WOULD'VE HAD TO TEST IT ON HUMANS SOONER OR LATER.
NO .. THEN, THAT MEANS THAT YOU ...
YOU'VE BEEN CONDUCTING EXPERIMENTS ON MAMI TAKESHIMA?!
SETTLE DOWN, YAMAUCHI.
SHE'S TERRIFIED OF DYING. WHAT SHE FEARS MOST IS NOTHINGNESS.
BUT WHAT IF SHE WERE ABLE TO DREAM FOREVER?

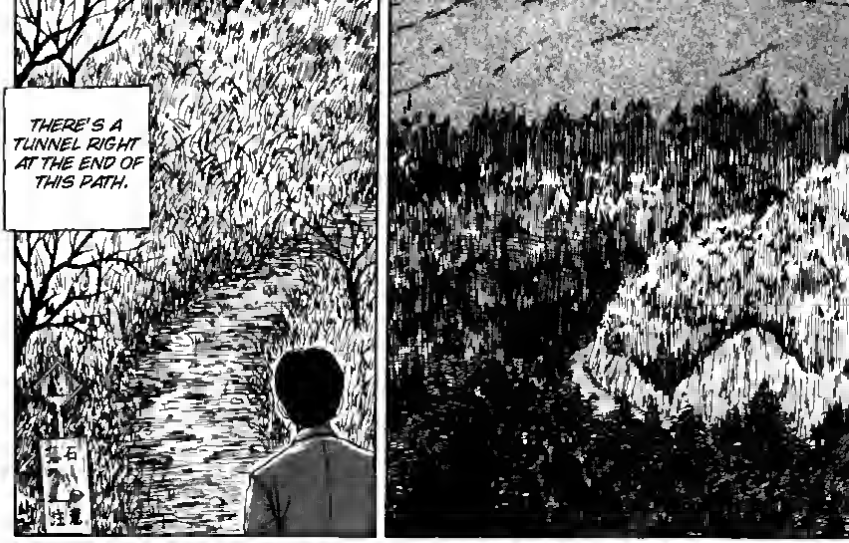
THEN MANKIND NEED NEVER FEAR DEATH EVER AGAIN.
SAY WE HAD THE POWER TO SHOW EVERYONE AN ETERNAL DREAM
EVEN IF IT WERE JUST IN THE ILLUSION OF AN INSTANT
THEN HER SPIRIT, MY FRIEND, WOULD LIVE FOREVER TOO.
...
YOU WOULD DESECRATE THE SOULS OF THE DYING?!
THAT'S ... THAT'S MAD-NESS, DOCTOR!
LONG DREAM THE END

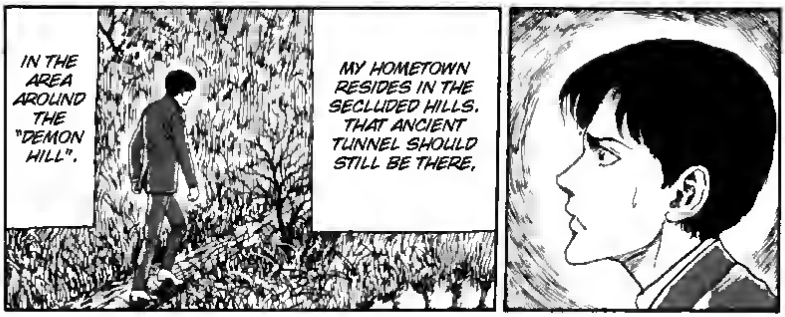
THE STORY OF THE MYSTERIOUS TUNNEL

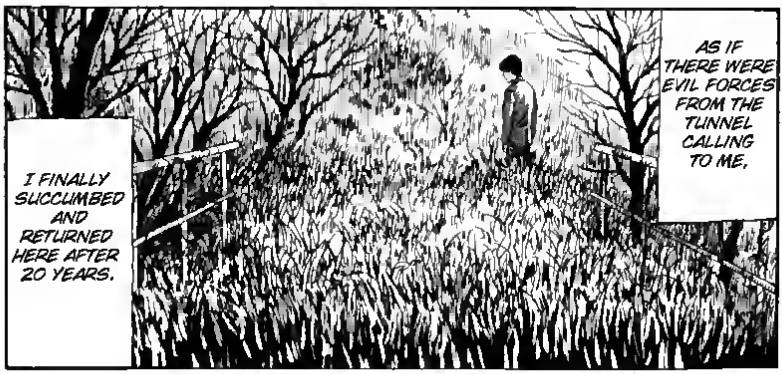
トンネル奇譚(きたん)

BY JUNJI ITO

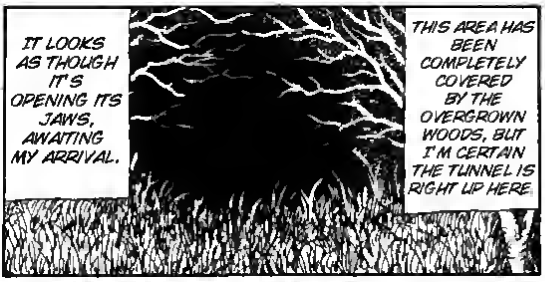
SLUG CHICKS
TRANSLATOR: LEMONSY
CLEANING: CHARM
TYPESETTER: KOI
PROOFREADER: JENNIFER


THERE'S A TUNNEL RIGHT AT THE END OF THIS PATH.


IN THE AREA AROUND THE "DEMON HILL".
MY HOMETOWN RESIDES IN THE SECLUDED HILLS. THAT ANCIENT TUNNEL SHOULD STILL BE THERE.


I FINALLY SUCCUMBED AND RETURNED HERE AFTER 20 YEARS.
AS IF THERE WERE EVIL FORCES FROM THE TUNNEL CALLING TO ME.

YES.
THAT TUNNEL HAS BEEN WAITING FOR ME.


IT LOOKS AS THOUGH IT'S OPENING ITS JAWS, AWAITING MY ARRIVAL.
THIS AREA HAS BEEN COMPLETELY COVERED BY THE OVERGROWN WOODS, BUT I'M CERTAIN THE TUNNEL IS RIGHT UP HERE

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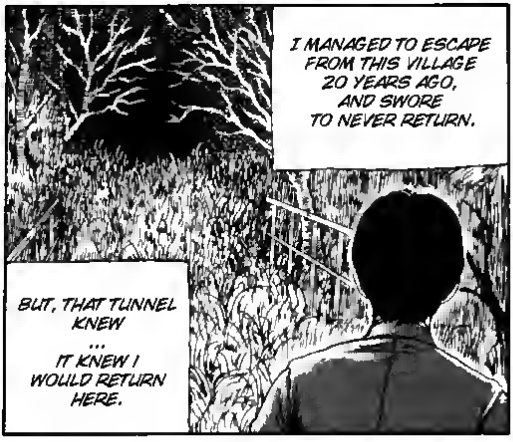
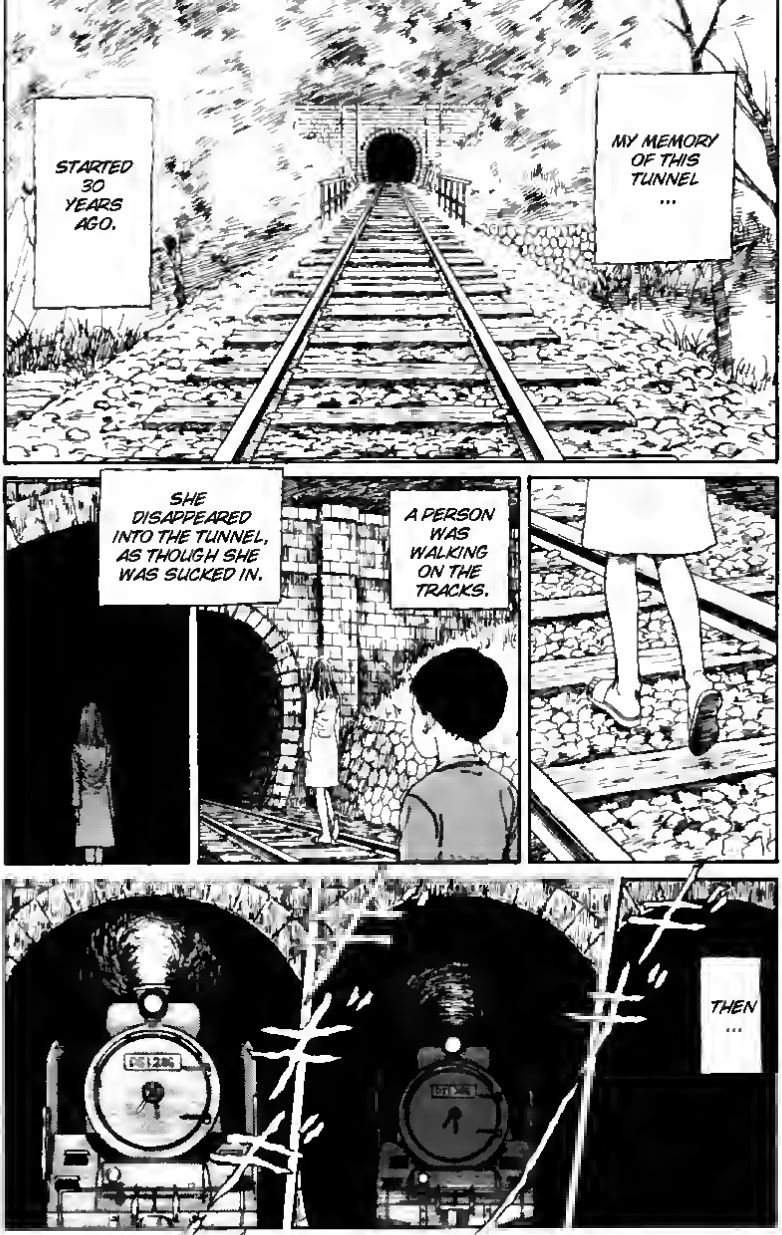

I MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM THIS VILLAGE 20 YEARS AGO, AND SWORE TO NEVER RETURN.
BUT, THAT TUNNEL KNEW ... IT KNEW I WOULD RETURN HERE.

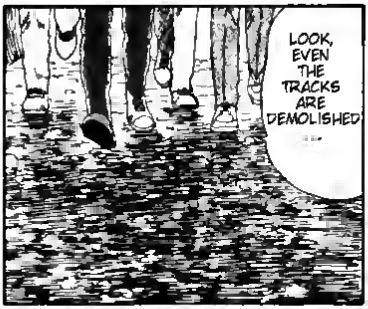

STARTED 30 YEARS AGO.
MY MEMORY OF THIS TUNNEL ...
SHE DISAPPEARED INTO THE TUNNEL, AS THOUGH SHE WAS SUCKED IN.
A PERSON WAS WALKING ON THE TRACKS.
THEN ...

UWAH! SHIT!
WE HIT SOME-ONE!
ANOTHER SUICIDE?!
THAT PERSON WAS MY MOTHER.
YOU MUST PROTECT YOUR SISTER, MARI, ALRIGHT?
YOU'RE THE ELDEST, GOROU-KUN. YOU NEED TO STAY CALM
WE COULDN'T FIGURE OUT THE REASON BEHIND HER SUICIDAL ACT.
SNIFF SNIFF
SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING, SO YOU NEED TO PROTECT HER...

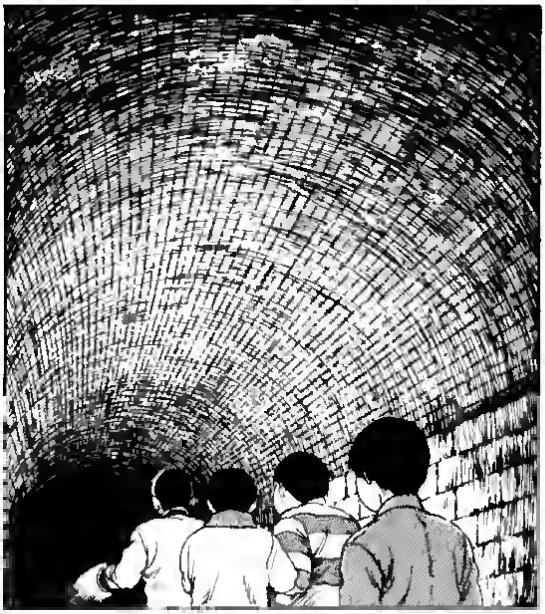
I COULDN'T FORGET WHAT MY AUNT SAID THAT DAY.
SOON AFTER, THAT OLD TUNNEL WAS NO LONGER IN USE.
A FEW YEARS LATER ...
I WANNA EXPLORE THAT OLD TUNNEL! WHO'S WITH ME?
HEY!

WE'RE NOT SCARED ... RIGHT?
WHAT? YOU SCARED?
EH?!
HEY, GOROU, JOIN US!
ALRIGHT THEN, IT'S DECIDED! FIRST, WE GO HOME AND GET FLASHLIGHTS, AND THEN WE'LL MEET UP AFTERWARD.
ALL THE MORE REASON TO GO!
S... SO WHAT?
IN THAT TUNNEL, GOROU'S MOTHER ...
AH... THAT'S RIGHT.
SCARE-DY CAT.
WHAT? YOU CHICKEN?
I'M NOT SCARED ONE BIT.

ALRIGHT...
'K, LET'S GO.


LOOK, EVEN THE TRACKS ARE DEMOLISHED...

HEY GOROU, IF YOUR MOM APPEARS, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.



I HEARD THAT THOSE WHO DIED WERE STAGGERING AS THEY ENTERED THE TUNNEL.
MY DAD TOLD ME THAT THIS TUNNEL SUMMONED THEM ...
MANY DIED HERE BEFORE THE TRAIN STOPPED RUNNING.
BUT IT'S NOT ONLY HIS MOTHER ...
WE'RE SO FAR FROM THE ENTRANCE ALREADY.
WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT ...
THEN AFTER THIS TUNNEL WAS BUILT, ALL THESE ACCIDENTS KEPT HAPPENING.
REALLY ...?
IN THE PAST, THIS HILL WAS KNOWN AS "DEMON HILL" AND EVERYONE FEARED IT ...
WHERE IS THAT?
DESTI-NATION ...?
TO OUR DESTINATION OF COURSE.
WHERE...
AH... WHERE ARE WE GOING ...?

THE TRUTH IS, I HEARD THAT THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TUNNEL.
WE'RE GOING THERE TO FIND THAT OUT.
EH ... WHAT KIND OF "THING"?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW!? THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, STUPID!
BUT... WHAT KIND OF THING WOULD BE IN THIS WEIRD TUNNEL?
YOU'RE SUCH A NAG! LEAVE IF YOU WANT!
HEY, LOOK AT THAT ...
THIS WALL IS COVERED IN SCRATCH MARKS ...
LIKE IT WAS CLAWED OR SOMETHING ...

TRAIN ACCIDENTS?
YEAH, MY DAD TOLD ME THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL CASES OF TRAINS DERAILING.
AH, COULD IT BE ...
SCRATCH MARKS FROM TRAIN ACCIDENTS?
YEAH, ESPECIALLY THAT ONE ACCIDENT ...
THAT ONE THAT HAPPENED DURING WORLD WAR II WAS REALLY BAD.
I HEARD THAT A BUNCH OF PEOPLE DIED.
NO WAY ...
OI, ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WERE THERE CASUAL-TIES?
MORE THAN HALF OF THE SURVIVORS WENT MISSING WHILE ESCAPING.
APPARENTLY, SOME SURVIVORS TRIED TO ESCAPE FROM THE TUNNEL, BUT THEN ...
THERE WERE EVEN STRANGE RUMORS ABOUT THAT ACCIDENT.

AND BLOOD WILL DRIP FROM THE INNER WALLS.
IT WILL GLOW GREEN DURING THE NIGHT.
WHENEVER PEOPLE DIE OR GO MISSING IN THE TUNNEL.
YES, AND I HEARD THE REPAIRMAN WHO ENTERED ALSO DISAPPEARED.
MISS-ING ...?
ALSO ...
OR THERE WILL BE A SCHOOL GIRL IN ANCIENT CLOTHES, DRIPPING WITH FRESH BLOOD, JUST STANDING THERE ..
THE GHOST TRAIN WILL PASS THROUGH THE TUNNEL SOMETIMES ...
KOJI, STOP FOOLING AROUND!
UWAHH ...

STOP TELLING GHOST STORIES ABOUT THE TUNNEL WHEN WE'RE IN THE TUNNEL!
YOU THINK I'LL CHICKEN OUT BECAUSE OF THESE STORIES?
I'M NOT FALLING FOR IT! I WILL GO TO THE MIDDLE!
ポタッ
SFX: WAHHHHHH!!

HEY, HEY! TAKE A LOOK, WILL YOU? SOMETHING DRIPPED ON MY HEAD, IS IT BLOOD? IS IT BLOOD OR NOT?
W-WHAT'S WRONG? QUIT SCARING US!

HEY, EVERY-ONE
...
YOU IDIOT, IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT FOR TELLING THOSE GHOST STORIES!
SHEESH, IT'S ONLY UNDER-GROUND WATER

WHAT THE HELL, GOROU ...?
WHAT IS THAT ...?
AAAAA AAAAH HHHH!
UWAH, IT'S THE SCHOOL GIRL!!

WAIT ... GUYS!

YOU ...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MARI?

AH!

ID...
IDIOT!
ONII-CHAN, I'M SCARED ...
I...I DON'T KNOW ... I CAME WITHOUT REALIZING ...
DID YOU COME HERE ALONE? WITHOUT A FLASH-LIGHT?
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SNIFF ...
SNIFF ...
C'MON, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
... HOW COULD YOU NOT KNOW HOW YOU ENDED UP IN THIS AWFUL PLACE?
BUT SHE COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THAT MOM DIED HERE ...
OR DID HER FRIENDS TELL HER THAT ...?
COULD IT BE SHE MISSES MOTHER?

SHE HAS A FEVER, SO IT'S BEST TO LET HER REST TOMORROW.
YEAH.
MARI'S SLEEPING?
YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE, HER DEATH WAS DEFINITELY NOT A CASE OF SUICIDE.
WHY DID MARI BECOME LIKE THIS TOO
AND MANY HAVE GONE MISSING OR DIED IN THERE, THAT MUCH IS TRUE
...
RUMORS SAY THAT THE TUNNEL CALLS PEOPLE IN.
UNKNOWINGLY GOING INTO THE TUNNEL
...
THAT'S UPSETTING
...

IT WAS A STRANGE HEAVINESS, LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE.
THAT NIGHT, MY BODY FELT LIKE LEAD.
YOU MUST KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
NO MATTER WHAT, YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE MARI DOESN'T GO NEAR IT AGAIN ...
YES
GOROU!
I'M BACK.

I THINK SHE WENT OUT.
YEAH, BUT I JUST CHECKED ON HER AND SHE WASN'T IN HER ROOM
HAVE YOU SEEN MARI?
NOPE .. DIDN'T SHE STAY HOME TODAY?
PER-HAPS
THE TUN-NEL?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT SHE'S RUNNING A FEVER. IF SHE'S WALKING AROUND IN THIS HARSH WEATHER, SHE'LL GET SICKER!
I'LL HEAD OUT TO FIND HER!
YOU BETTER STAY HOME!
HOWEVER, DAD DIDN'T RETURN EVEN AFTER TWO HOURS.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG
DON'T TELL ME

HAA!
HAA!
HAA ... HAA ...
THEY BOTH ENTERED THE TUNNEL.
THEY MUST STILL BE IN THERE.
MARI'S FOOT-PRINTS TOO ...
FOOT-PRINTS MADE BY DAD'S BOOTS ...

ポタッ
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!
ポトッ
HOW FAR HAVE I WALKED?
ONLY DARKNESS STRETCHED BEHIND ME AS I WALKED.
WATER ...

*ECHOES. DADDY!!

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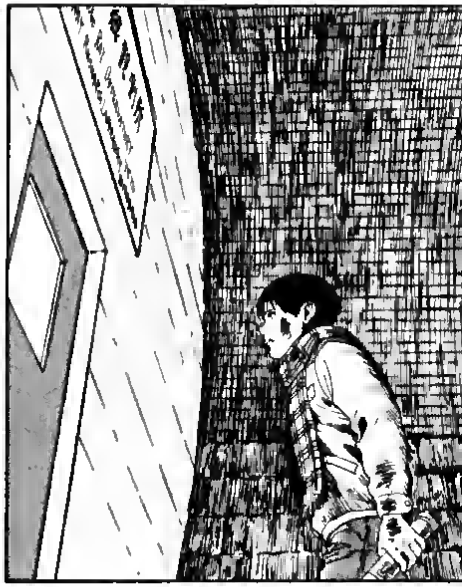
ワーン
UGH
....
ボト
....?

THE TUNNEL IS
BLOCKED BY THIS WALL...
WHAT IS THAT?

東京大学
理学部
宇宙線観測所
COSMIC-RAY OBSERVATORY
COSMIC-RAY RESEARCH LABORATORY TŌTO UNIVERSITY

WHAT IS THIS?
COSMIC-RAY OBSERVATORY?
WHEN DID THEY BUILD THIS THING?



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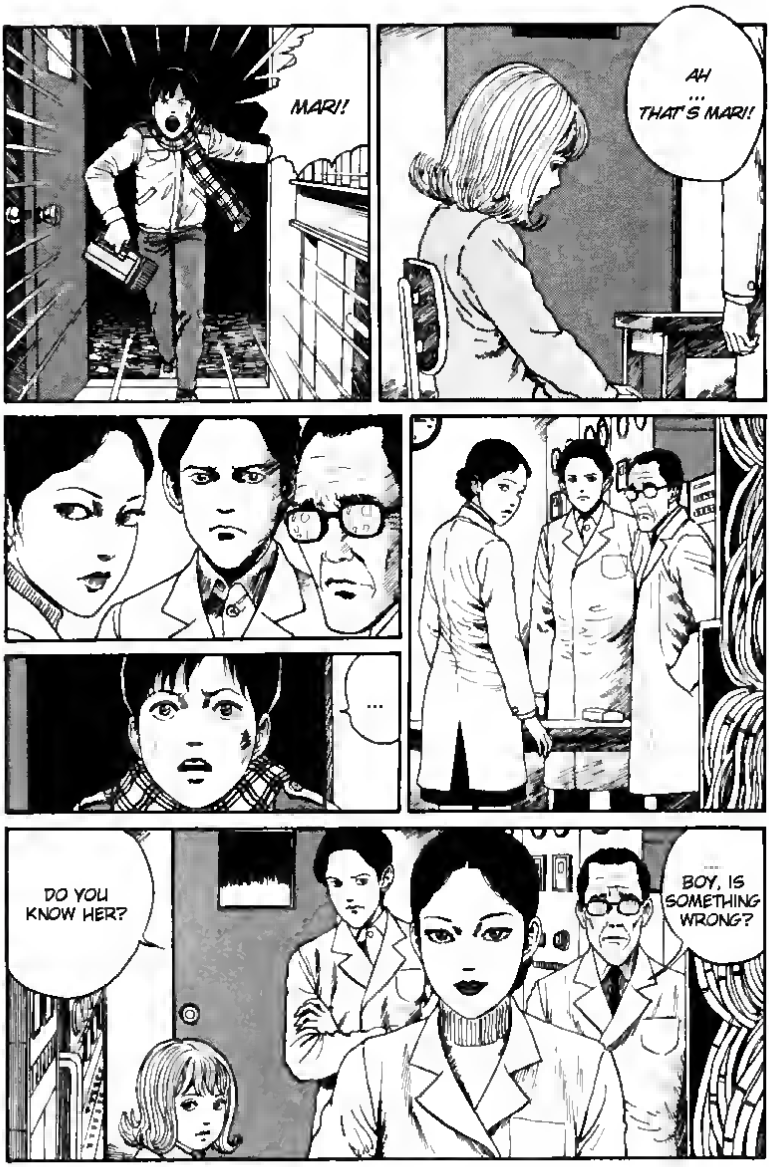
MARI!
AH ... THAT'S MARI!
...
DO YOU KNOW HER?
BOY, IS SOMETHING WRONG?

YOU CAN'T RUN OUT LIKE THIS ANYMORE.
SO, YOU'RE MARI?
OH
...SHE'S MY SISTER
THEN, YOU'RE HERE TO FETCH HER?
NO, HE HASN'T BEEN HERE.
YOUR FATHER?
MY FATHER SHOULD BE HERE AS WELL...
EXCUSE ME...
BUT YOUR DAD WOULDN'T BE THERE. IF HE DID PASS THROUGH HERE, WE WOULD'VE NOTICED HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT... WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TUNNEL.
THE TUNNEL CONTINUES ON BEHIND THIS LAB, RIGHT...?
EH... THAT'S WEIRD

IMPOSSIBLE! I BROUGHT MY FLASHLIGHT, AND THE PATH THROUGH THE TUNNEL IS STRAIGHT!
THE TUNNEL IS DARK, PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T REALIZE HE WAS THERE?
STRANGE, HE SHOULD BE IN THIS TUNNEL.
I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE ELSE ON THE WAY IN HERE.
YES, PROFES-SOR
KOYAMA-SAN, SHOW HIM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TUNNEL.
THERE'S OUR CAR, YOU CAN USE IT TO SEARCH FOR HIM.
SINCE YOU INSIST, SEARCH ON THE OTHER SIDE THEN!
I EVEN FOUND MY DAD'S FLASH LIGHT!
...?
BLOOD ...
IT'S BLOOD .. ARE YOU HURT ANY-WHERE?
EH?
HMM? WHAT'S THIS ON YOUR FACE?

ブロロロロロ
CLIMB IN.
I'LL WATCH THE RIGHT SIDE.
ブロロロ
MAKE SURE TO CHECK THE ALCOVES, HE COULD BE IN THOSE CORNERS.
WE'RE REACHING THE OTHER END OF THE TUNNEL.
PLEASE DRIVE SLOWER!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.
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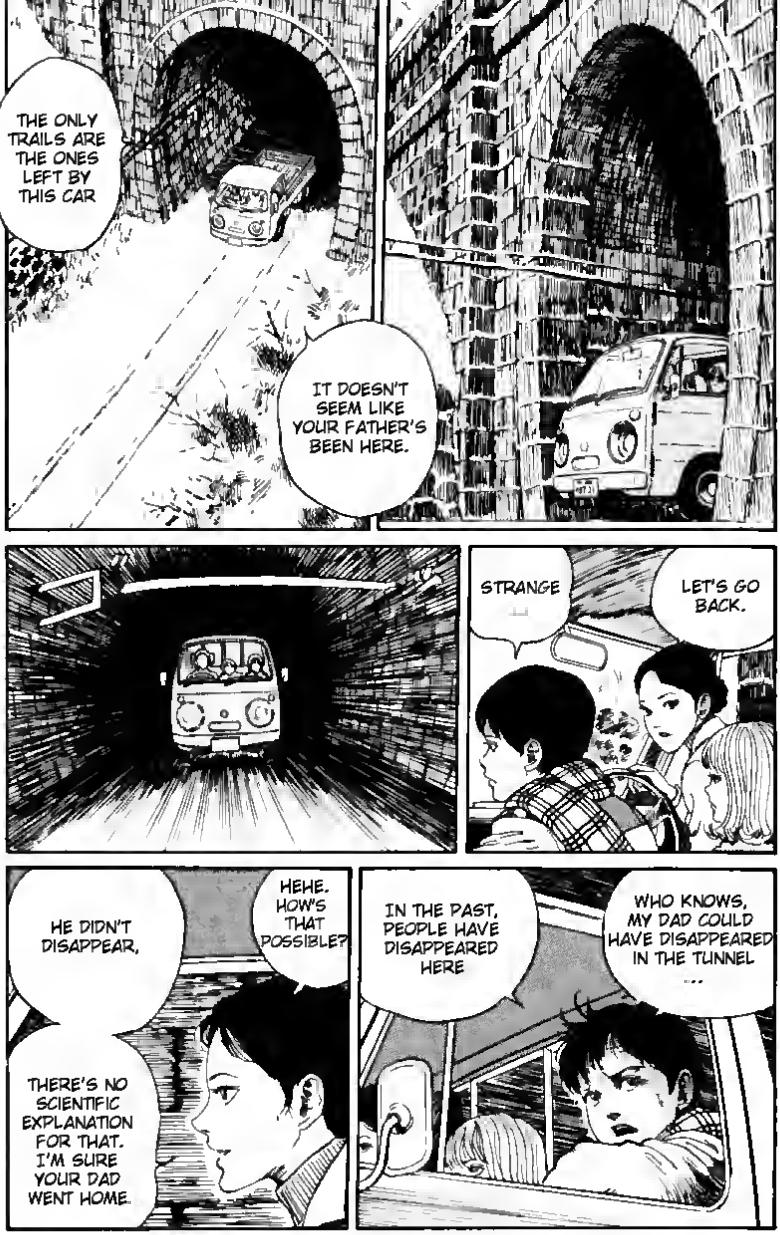
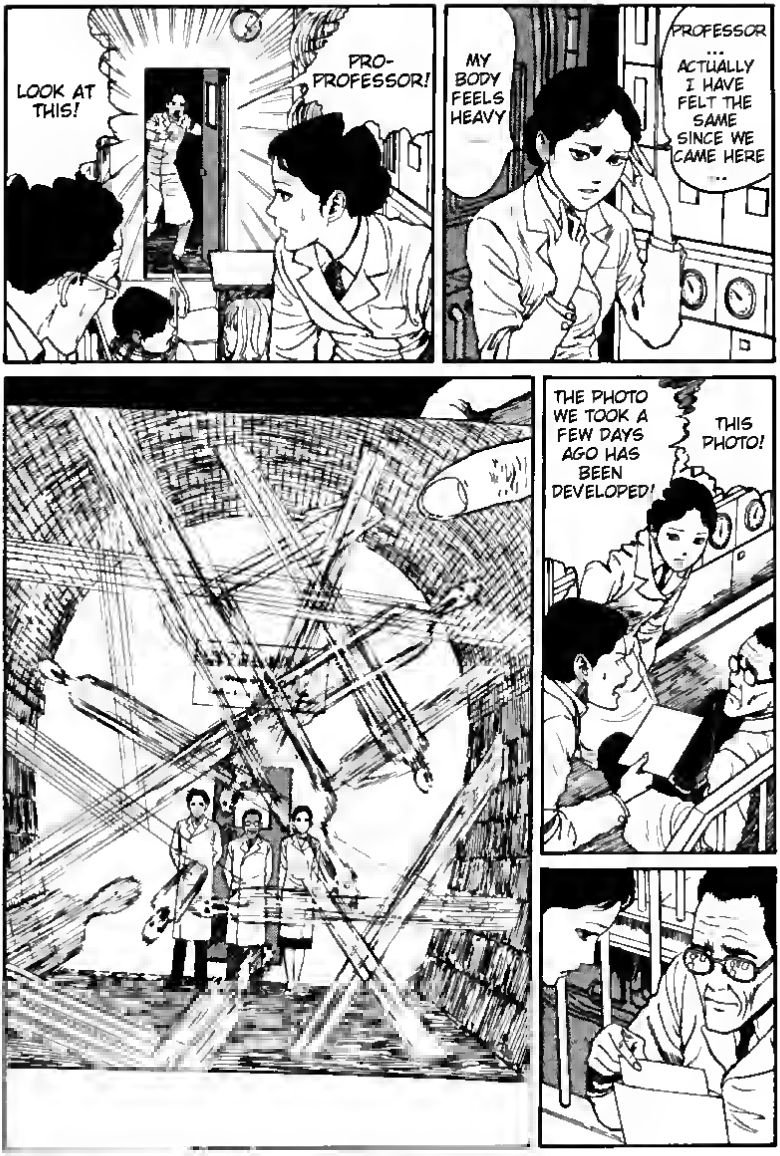
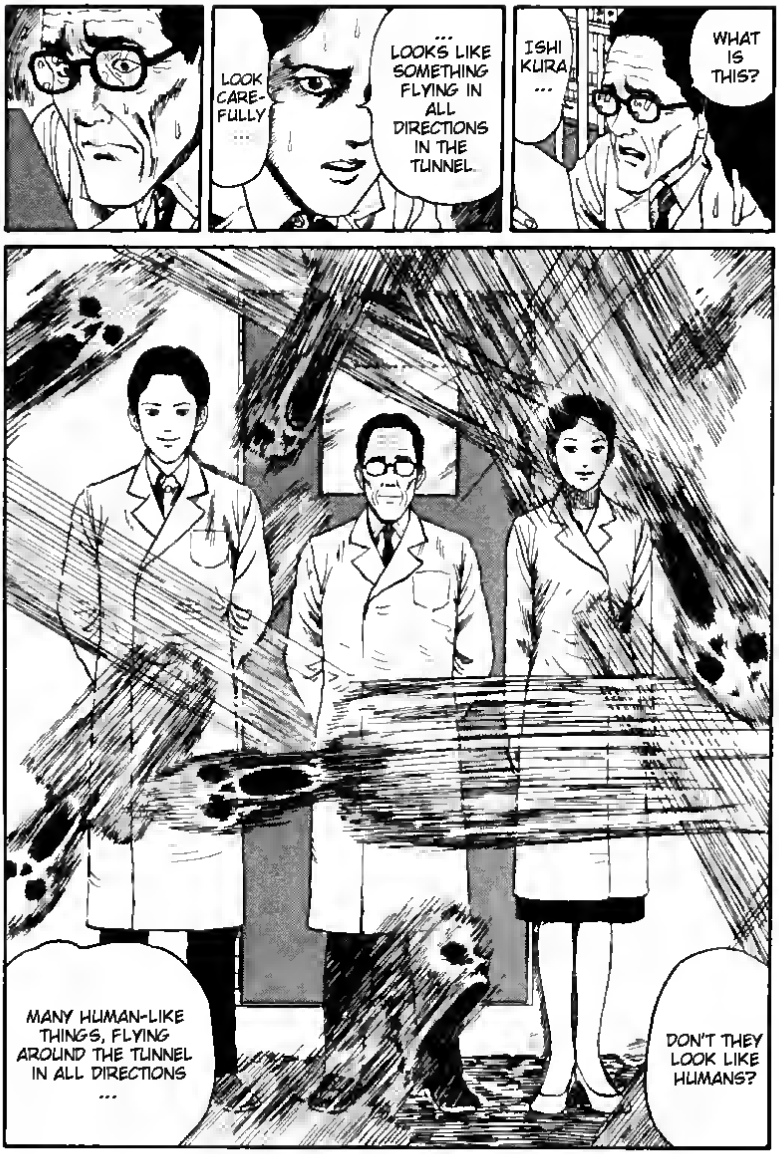

THE ONLY TRAILS ARE THE ONES LEFT BY THIS CAR
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOUR FATHER'S BEEN HERE.
STRANGE
...
LET'S GO BACK.
HE DIDN'T DISAPPEAR,
HEHE. HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE?
THERE'S NO SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION FOR THAT. I'M SURE YOUR DAD WENT HOME.
IN THE PAST, PEOPLE HAVE DISAPPEARED HERE
WHO KNOWS, MY DAD COULD HAVE DISAPPEARED IN THE TUNNEL ...

THEY AREN'T VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE.
BECAUSE THEY ARE RAYS, THEY CAN BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH HUMANS AND EVEN THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH, ALL THE WAY TO THE CORE OF THE EARTH, LIKE AN X-RAY.
IT'S WHERE WE OBSERVE COSMIC RAYS, WHICH ARE ONE OF THE MANY TYPES OF RAYS TRANSMITTED FROM SPACE.
OH RIGHT, WHAT EXACTLY IS THE COSMIC-RAY OBSERVATORY?
...
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.
MANY UNIVERSITIES MAKE USE OF OLD TUNNELS LIKE THIS TO OBSERVE THESE KINDS OF THINGS.
AND SO, THEY PASS THROUGH THIS ENTIRE HILL AND INTO THIS TUNNEL ...
ゴー
THIS TUNNEL SEEMS TO BE VERY ODD ...
YET, THERE ARE ALWAYS SOME TECHNICAL ISSUES OR STRANGE RESULTS FROM OUR EXPERIMENTS, SO EVERYONE HAS BEEN STRESSED OUT.
WE'VE ONLY JUST STARTED OBSERVING.

DAD MUST HAVE DISAPPEARED.
THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION.
AFTER THAT, MARI KEPT RETURNING TO THE TUNNEL.
THE OBSERVATORY SCIENTISTS ARE ALWAYS CALLING ME TO COME GET HER.
SNIFF SNIFF
ONII-CHAN, I'M SCARED ...
SNIFF SNIFF
WHY DO I ALWAYS END UP HERE, I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW IT HAPPENS ...
YEAH ...
IF YOU MOVE, MAYBE MARI WON'T END UP HERE AGAIN
IF YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR FATHER, PERHAPS THE TWO OF YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS VILLAGE?
GOROU-KUN, DO YOU HAVE ANY RELATIVES WHO LIVE FAR AWAY?

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THE MACHINE, BUT THE RESULTS ARE GOING HAYWIRE!
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO OUR EXPERI-MENTS?!
ドン
DAMMIT, WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG?
SFX: PING!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
PROFES-SOR,
AH!
フラ
BUT EVER SINCE I CAME TO THIS TUNNEL, MY BODY FEELS SO EXHAUSTED ...
UGH ... I'M FINE


LOOK AT THIS!
PRO-
PROFESSOR!
MY BODY FEELS HEAVY
PROFESSOR ... ACTUALLY I HAVE FELT THE SAME SINCE WE CAME HERE ...
THE PHOTO WE TOOK A FEW DAYS AGO HAS BEEN DEVELOPED!
THIS PHOTO!


LOOK CARE-FULLY ...
... LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING FLYING IN ALL DIRECTIONS IN THE TUNNEL
ISHI KURA ...
WHAT IS THIS?
MANY HUMAN-LIKE THINGS, FLYING AROUND THE TUNNEL IN ALL DIRECTIONS ...
DON'T THEY LOOK LIKE HUMANS?

AND THEY JUST PASS THROUGH OUR BODIES LIKE AN X-RAY!
LOOK, THOSE THINGS APPEAR IN AN INSTANT AND DISAPPEAR AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL
WHY WERE THEY CAPTURED ON THE CAMERA?
YOU'RE RIGHT, THEY DO LOOK LIKE HUMANS
GHOSTS? QUIT SPOUTING NONSENSE
WHAT ON EARTH ARE THEY? ARE THEY GHOSTS?
BUT THAT WOULD PROVE THAT THOSE THINGS EXIST.
IT WOULD BE THE SAME AS BEING EXPOSED TO A LARGE AMOUNT OF RADIATION.
IN FACT, THEY ARE PROBABLY FLYING AROUND RIGHT NOW, BUT WE CAN'T SEE THEM.
THESE THINGS COULD BE THE REASON BEHIND THE FAULTY RESULTS, RIGHT?
THEN THE REASON BEHIND OUR FATIGUE ...
PROFESSOR ... IF THOSE THINGS PASS THROUGH OUR BODIES ...

JUST LIKE THAT, →COSMIC-RAY OBSERVATORY← CAME TO AN END.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO STAY HERE ANY LONGER, IT COULD GET DANGEROUS!
IT'S REALLY HARD TO BELIEVE, THOUGH ...
DON'T TELL ME SHE'S IN THE TUNNEL AGAIN
AH WHERE DID MARI GO?
JUST WHEN WE WERE ALMOST READY TO LEAVE ...
AFTER THAT, OUR AUNTIE IN TOKYO DECIDED TO ADOPT MY SISTER AND I.
... P-PLEASE COME OVER IMMEDIATELY!
EH? KOYAMA-SAN?
RIGHT NOW ... SOMETHING AWFUL IS HAPPENING ...!
IS THIS GOROU-KUN? IT'S ME, KOYAMA-SAN FROM THE COSMIC-RAY OBSERVATORY
HELLO ?

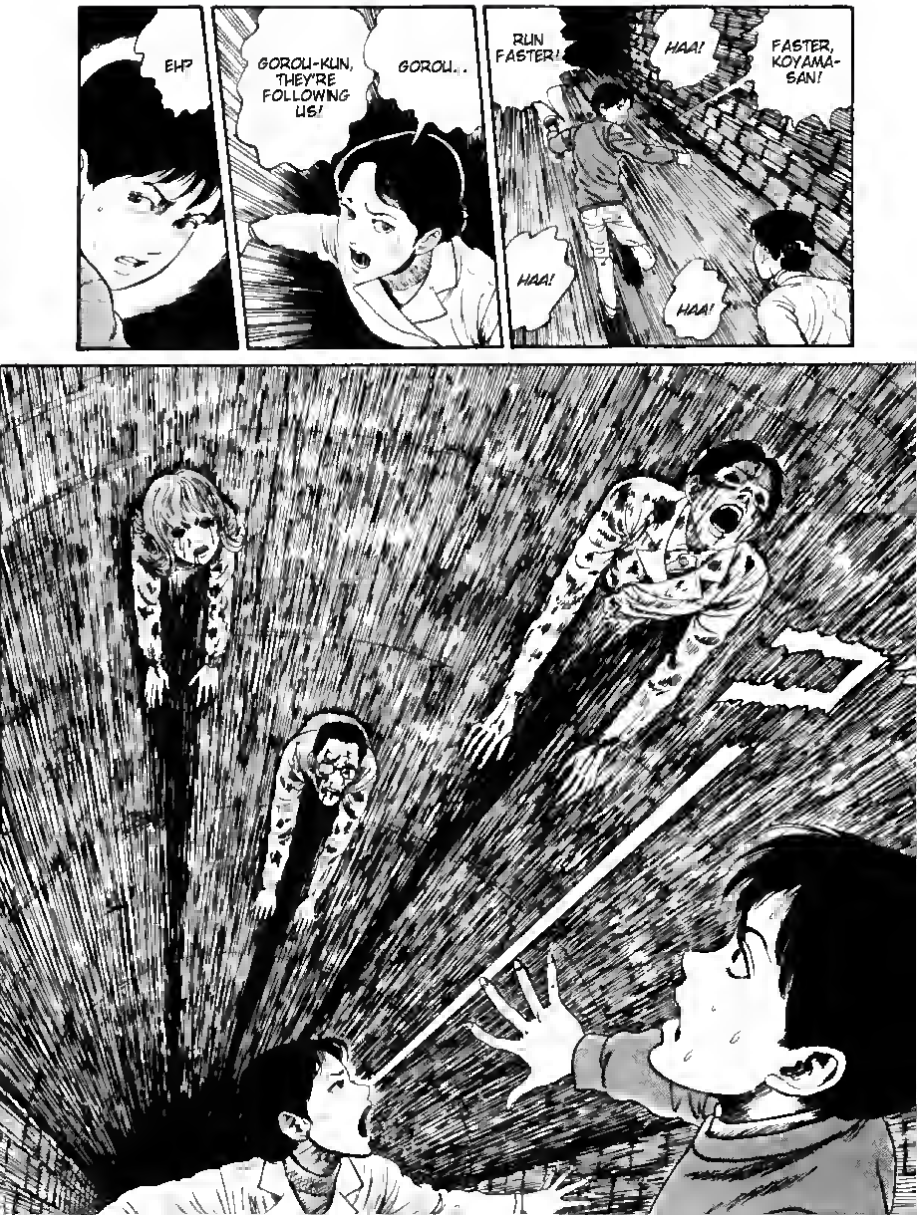
H-HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?!
WAAAHH!!
SFX: CLICK
WHAT ON EARTH
DIDN'T THEY CLOSE THE COSMIC-RAY OBSERVATORY?
HAA!
HAA!

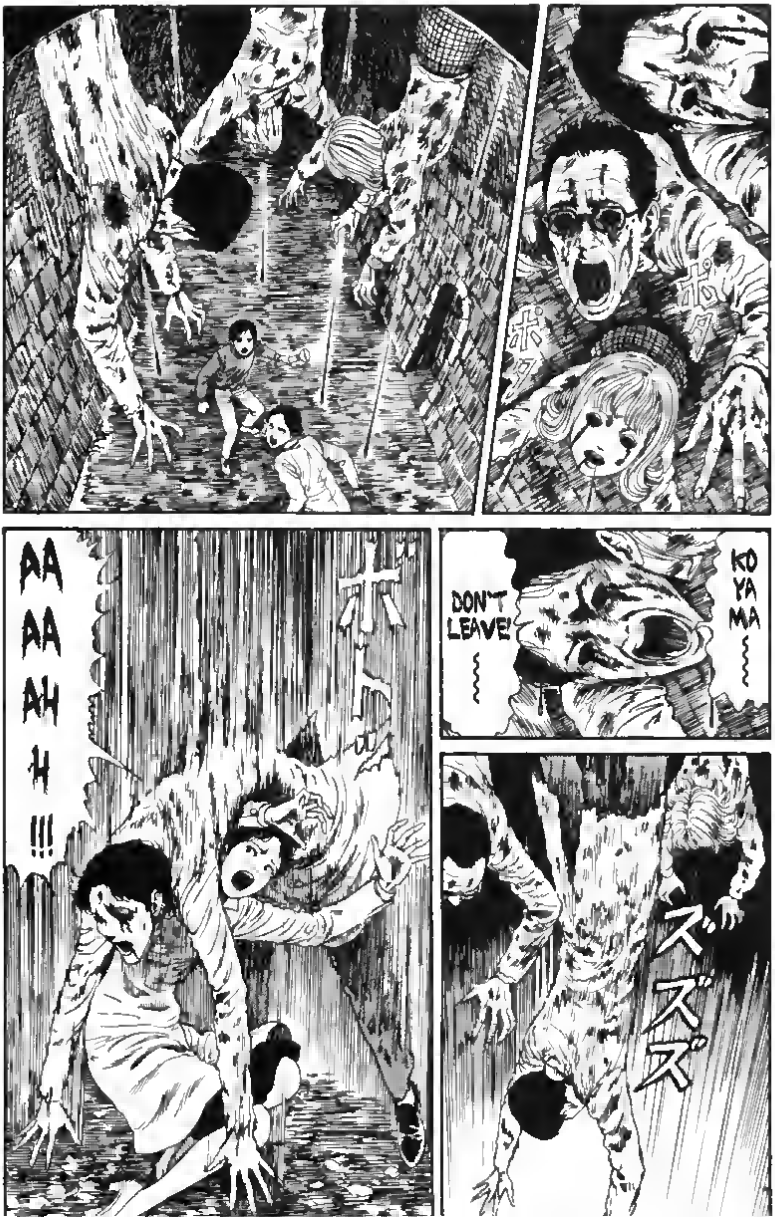
KOYAMA-SAN!
HAA!
HAA!
THE DOOR IS OPEN ...
WHERE ARE YOU?
KOYAMA-SAN!

THEY ARE PASSING THROUGH THE WALLS!
I SEE THEM NOW! THERE REALLY ARE A BUNCH OF PEOPLE FLYING AROUND THE TUNNEL ...
THE PROFES-SOR AND ISHI-KURA ...
G-GOROU!
WHO ... WHO CAN TELL ME WHY?! WHY?
WHY ARE WE BEING SUCKED INTO THE SOLID GROUND...?!
PASSING THROUGH ... THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE ...!
WE-WE ARE ALSO
EEEEEK!
WE

EVEN THOUGH WE CLOSED OFF THE COSMIC-RAY OBSERVATORY WE CAME BACK TO THIS PLACE WITHOUT REALIZING IT ...
GOROU ... WE CAME BACK ...
D DISAP-PEARED ...
EEEKKK!
I'M SCARED ...
ONII-CHAN, I'M SCARED ...
I'M REALLY AFRAID ...
AAH!!
I'M SCARED, ONII-CHAN!
MARI!

MARI!
MARI!
MARI!
KOYAMA-SAN
...
LET'S RUN, WE NEED TO GET OUT OF THIS TUNNEL!
GOROU
...
BLOOD
...
HAA!
HAA!
HAA!
HAA!
HAA!


EH?
GOROU-KUN, THEY'RE FOLLOWING US!
GOROU..
RUN FASTER!
HAA!
FASTER, KOYAMA-SAN!
HAA!
HAA!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ボタ
KO YA MA
DON'T LEAVE!
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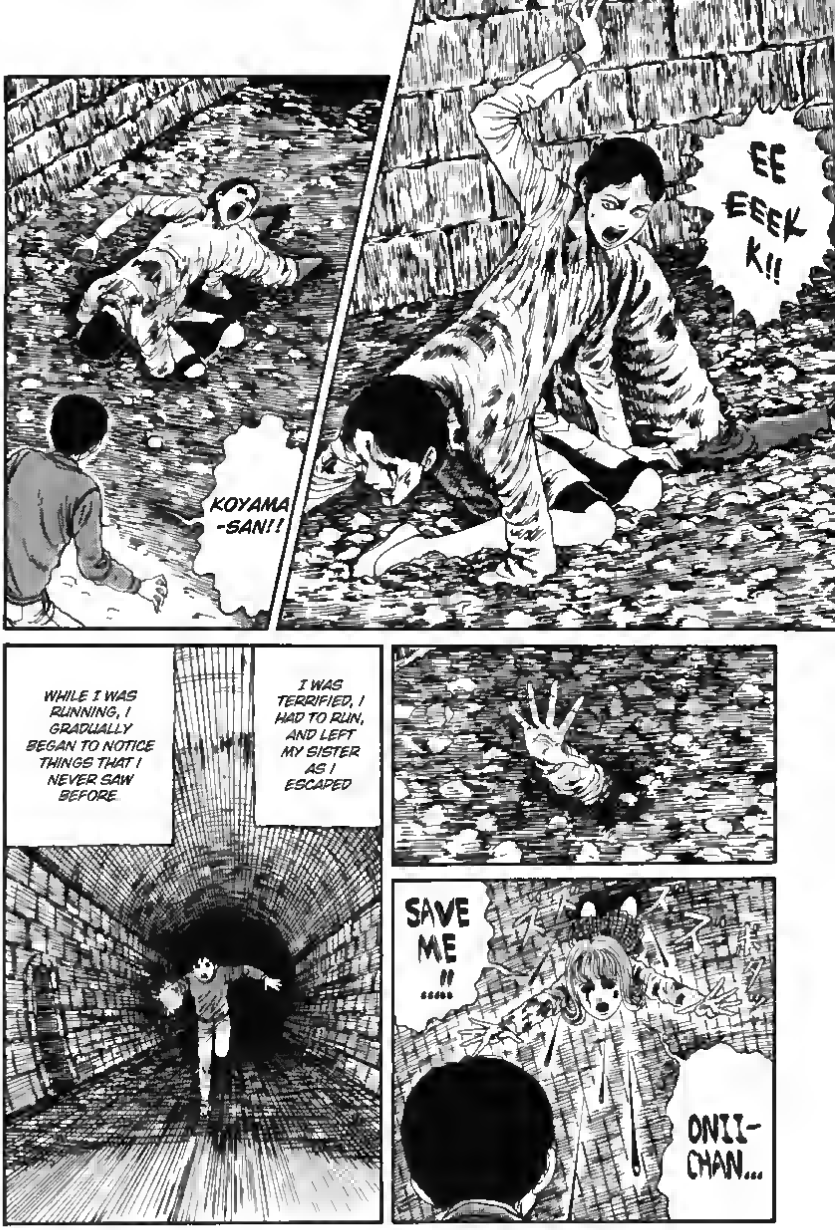
AA AA AH H !!!

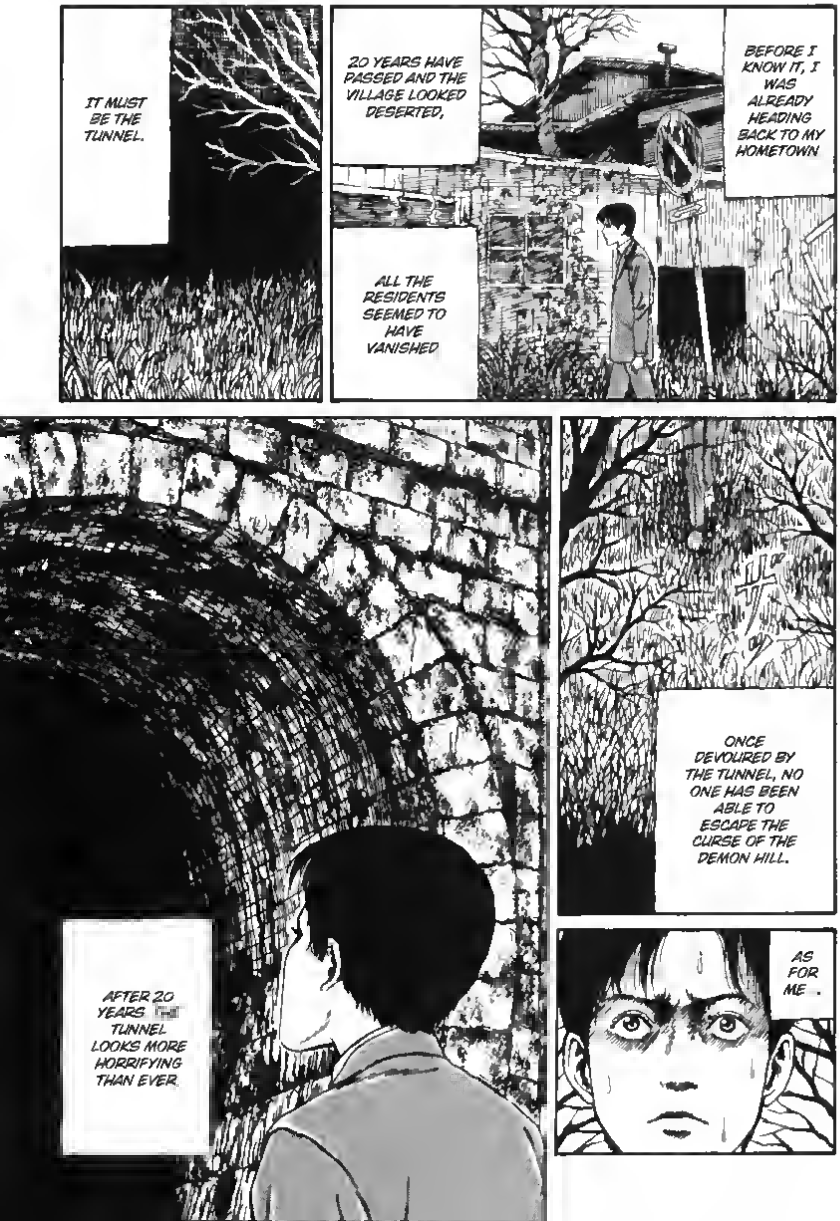

KOYAMA -SAN!!
EE EEEK K!!
WHILE I WAS RUNNING, I GRADUALLY BEGAN TO NOTICE THINGS THAT I NEVER SAW BEFORE
I WAS TERRIFIED, I HAD TO RUN, AND LEFT MY SISTER AS I ESCAPED
SAVE ME !! .....
ONII-CHAN...

THOSE WERE THE VICTIMS THAT WERE SWALLOWED BY THE TUNNEL...!

YEARNING TO ESCAPE, YET ONLY TO RICOCHET OFF THE WALLS.
THEY SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN TRAPPED IN THIS PRISON KNOWN AS DEMON HILL.

THEY MERCILESSLY PASSED THROUGH MY BODY.

UNDER MY AUNTIE' CARE, I GREW TO BE A HEALTHY ADULT, BUT I WAS NEVER LIBERATED FROM THE MENTAL SUFFERINGS.
BECAUSE IF I DID, THEY WOULD KNOW THAT I ABANDONED MY SISTER THERE.
I NEVER MENTIONED THE INCIDENT TO ANYONE.
I HEARD THAT MORE PEOPLE HAVE MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED IN THAT VILLAGE RECENTLY, IT MUST BE CURSED..
GORO-KUN.
HEA VIN ESS..
ALONG WITH STRANGE FATIGUE..
BUT AUNT HAD PASSED AWAY A FEW DAYS AGO.
I WAS UNABLE TO HAVE A NORMAL SOCIAL LIFE, HARDLY EVER LEAVING THE HOUSE
EVERYONE WAS SWALLOWED ALIVE BY THAT MONSTROUS TUNNEL!!
IT'S THE TUNNEL... WHY HASN'T ANYONE INVESTIGATED THAT TUNNEL...
EVERY TIME MY AUNT SAYS THAT, I WANT TO SCREAM-


IT MUST BE THE TUNNEL.
20 YEARS HAVE PASSED AND THE VILLAGE LOOKED DESERTED,
BEFORE I KNOW IT, I WAS ALREADY HEADING BACK TO MY HOMETOWN
ALL THE RESIDENTS SEEMED TO HAVE VANISHED
ONCE DEVOURED BY THE TUNNEL, NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE THE CURSE OF THE DEMON HILL.
AS FOR ME .
AFTER 20 YEARS THE TUNNEL LOOKS MORE HORRIFYING THAN EVER

MANY FAMILIAR FACES...
I CAN SEE...

TRANSLATOR: FALSE / EDITOR: OTAKUCHARM
SLUG-CHICKS.BLOGSPOT.COM

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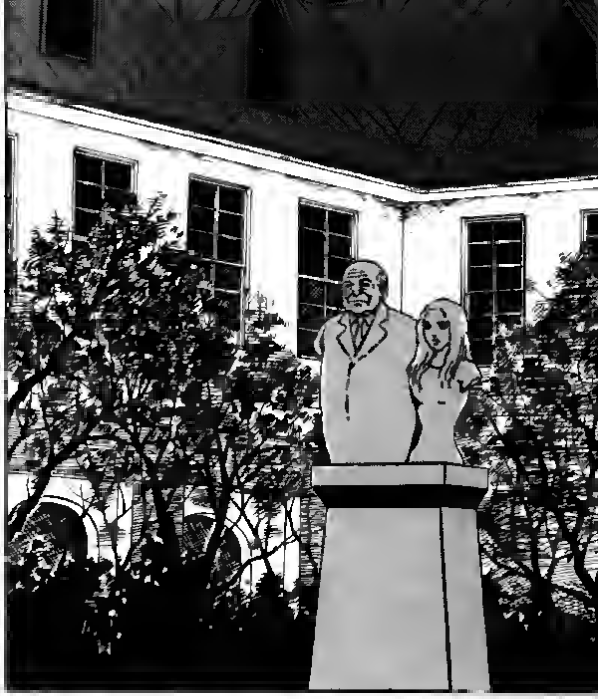

I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG...
YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF, YOU KNOW. INSULTING ME LIKE THAT.
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PANT
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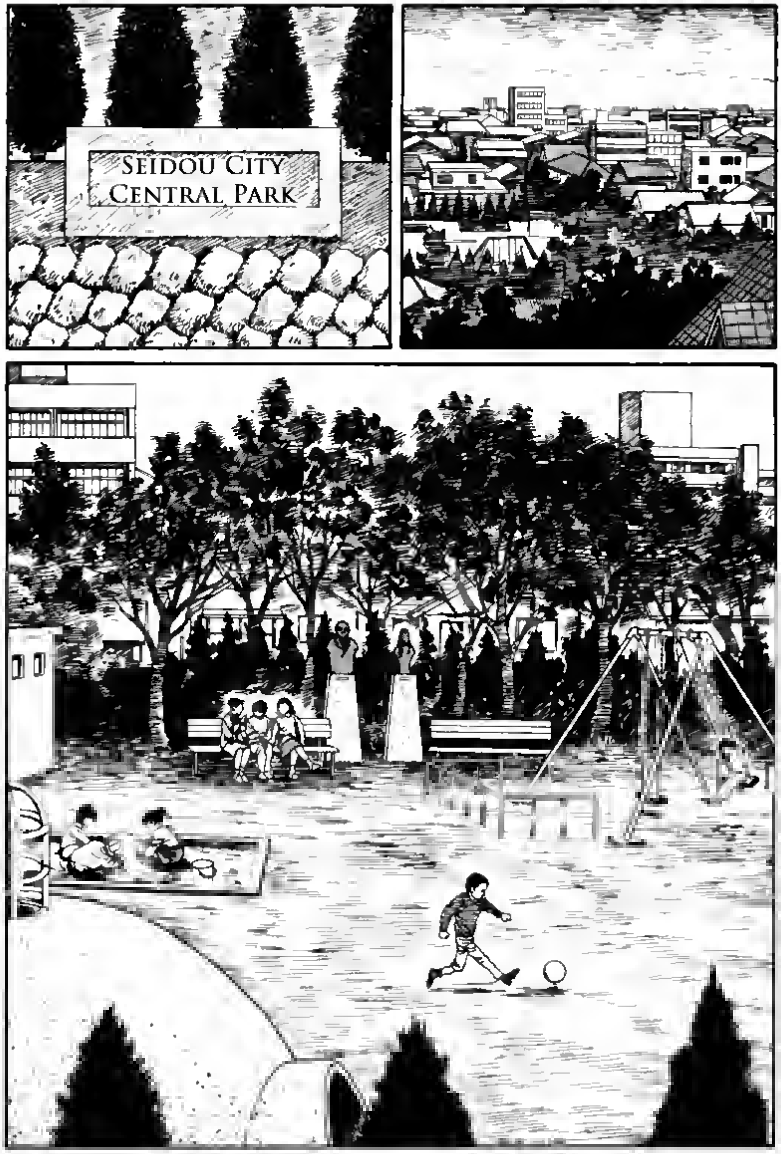
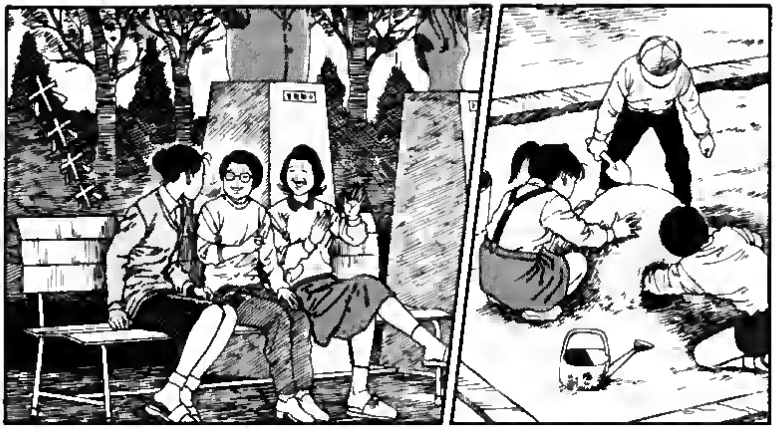
TR's note: Seidou or "Green Bronze" refers to bronze that has turned bluish green due to oxidation. think

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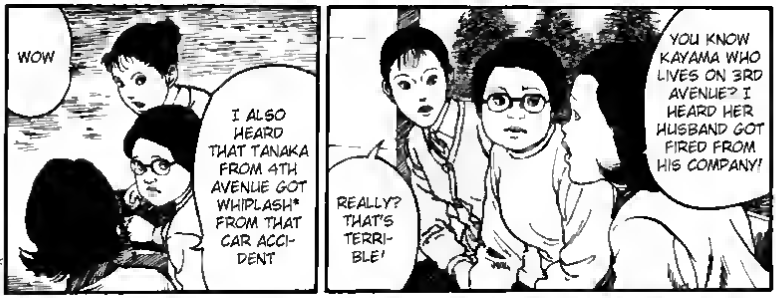
WOW
I ALSO HEARD THAT TANAKA FROM 4TH AVENUE GOT WHIPLASH* FROM THAT CAR ACCIDENT
REALLY? THAT'S TERRIBLE!
YOU KNOW KAYAMA WHO LIVES ON 3RD AVENUE? I HEARD HER HUSBAND GOT FIRED FROM HIS COMPANY!

* neck injury

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WE'RE THE SHIRAKAWAS WE JUST MOVED INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD
WE CAME HERE TO PLAY AND WE THOUGHT WE SHOULD INTRODUCE OURSELVES.
IT'S A PLEASURE MEETING ALL OF YOU.
HM, HELLO!
YES?
NOW, SUSUMU
WHAT DO WE SAY?
AND WHAT'S YOUR NAME, LITTLE BOY?
OH, HOW NICE!
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO.
WELL, SUSUMU, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO PLAY IN THE SANDBOX?
MAMA, WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?
OUR CHILDREN ARE OVER THERE PLAYING IN THE SANDBOX. WHY DON'T YOU GO MAKE FRIENDS?

OH, RIGHT.
THOSE BRONZE STATUES
EH?
PFFT... YEAH... HIS WIFE!
NEXT TO HIM IS HIS WIFE ..
WHEN THE MAYOR BUILT THIS PARK 5 YEARS AGO, HE HAD THOSE STATUES MADE ALONG WITH IT
THAT'S A STATUE OF THE PREVIOUS MAYOR
PPPFFFFFT...
IS SHE REALLY THIS YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL?
WOW... THE PREVIOUS MAYOR'S WIFE.

OH... THEN ... WHY DOES IT LOOK LIKE THIS ...?
IN REALITY, SHE ISN'T YOUNG OR BEAUTIFUL!
NOT AT ALL. IT DOESN'T LOOK A THING LIKE HER!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT FOR A SECOND!
SHE SAID THAT THIS IS WHAT SHE USED TO LOOK LIKE IN HER PRIME.
SHE'S REALLY JUST AN OLD HAG!
THE EX-MAYOR DISAPPEARED 3 YEARS AGO I BET HE WAS TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM HIS WIFE!
THAT'S RIGHT... HAVEN'T THEY FOUND HIM YET?
HE'S GONE WITHOUT A TRACE HE PROBABLY ELOPED WITH SOME YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL GIRL!
A HA HA HA HA
BUT EVERYONE IN TOWN AGREES THAT THIS IS JUST SHAMELESS!
I MEAN, EVEN JUST ERECTING A BRONZE STATUE OF YOURSELF IS PRETTY VAIN!

I DON'T KNOW, THEY SAY SHE HAS EARS LIKE A BAT!
IT'S FINE, THERE'S NO WAY SHE CAN HEAR US.
THAT'S RIGHT! HER MANSION IS SO CLOSE, WE'D BE IN REAL TROUBLE IF SHE WAS LISTENING!
CAREFUL! IF YOU ALL TALK TOO LOUD, THE OLD WITCH MIGHT HEAR YOU!
I ALWAYS WATCH WHAT I SAY.
YEAH, SHE'S LIKE THE NSA!
PLEASE DON'T GO AROUND SPOUTING SUCH NON-SENSE!
OH, NOT THIS STORY AGAIN
YEAH, THEY TALK.
THE BRONZE STATUES CAN TALK, YOU KNOW.

YEAH! I DON'T THINK THE OLD GUY CAN TALK, THOUGH...
IT'S TRUE, MOM! THE LADY STATUE ALWAYS TALKS TO US!
MRS. BRONZE STATUE?
RIGHT? YOU CAN TALK, RIGHT?
IT'S TRUE!
I DON'T FEEL LIKE LISTENING TO YOUR TALL TALES!!!
HUH, THAT'S WEIRD
MRS BRONZE STATUE
NOW, SEE, DID YOU REALLY THINK A STATUE COULD TALK?

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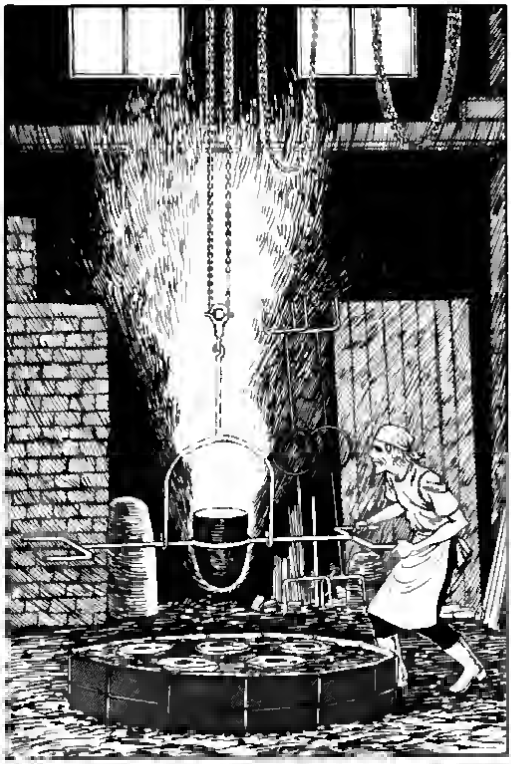
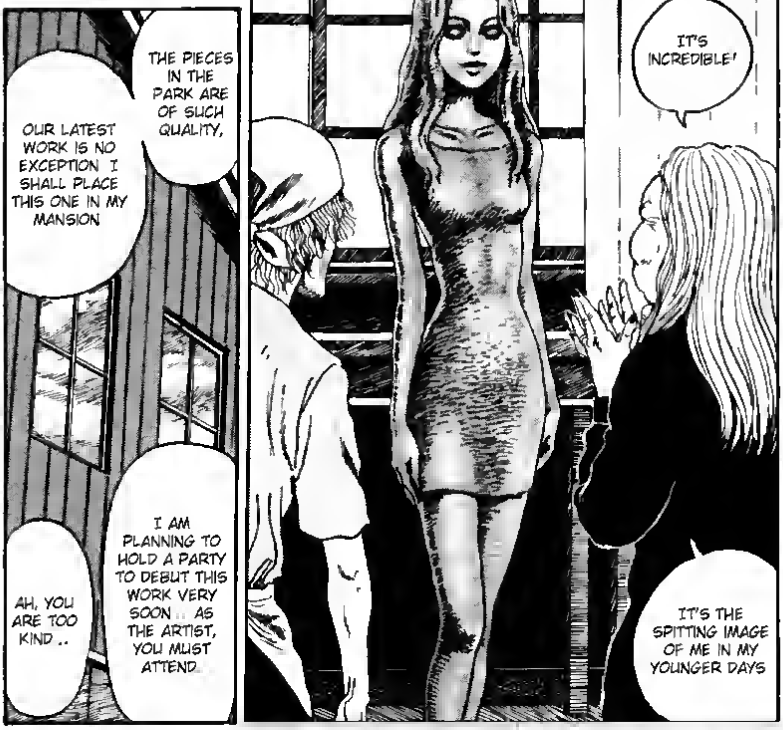
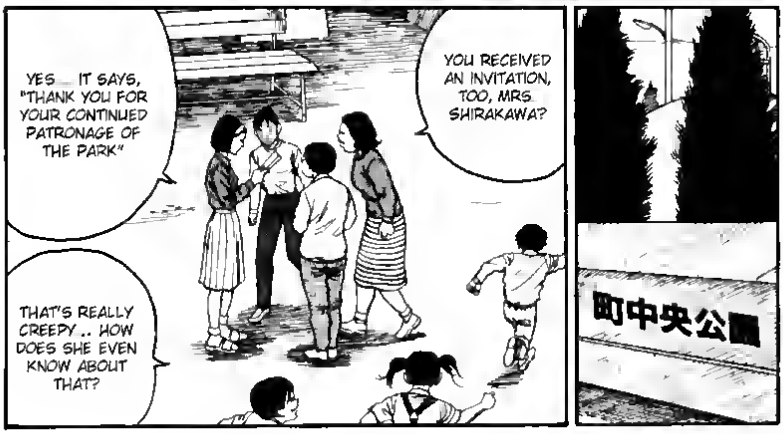


MASTER TSUCHIYA, YOU'RE WORKING HARD, AS USUAL.
WELL WELL, IF IT ISN'T MADAME SONOBE.
TO WHAT DO I OWE THIS PLEASURE?
HAVE YOU FINISHED WHAT I REQUESTED?
COUGH, COUGH... I'VE JUST COMPLETED IT..
RIGHT THIS WAY
IS IT TO YOUR LIKING?
IT'S MY PRIDE AND JOY.


IT'S INCREDIBLE!
IT'S THE SPITTING IMAGE OF ME IN MY YOUNGER DAYS
THE PIECES IN THE PARK ARE OF SUCH QUALITY,
OUR LATEST WORK IS NO EXCEPTION I SHALL PLACE THIS ONE IN MY MANSION
I AM PLANNING TO HOLD A PARTY TO DEBUT THIS WORK VERY SOON... AS THE ARTIST, YOU MUST ATTEND.
AH, YOU ARE TOO KIND..


YOU RECEIVED AN INVITATION, TOO, MRS. SHIRAKAWA?
YES... IT SAYS, "THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PATRONAGE OF THE PARK"
THAT'S REALLY CREEPY.. HOW DOES SHE EVEN KNOW ABOUT THAT?
町中央公園

WE AREN'T EVEN HER FRIENDS...
BUT IT SAYS SHE'S INVITING US TO SEE THE DEBUT OF SOME NEW BRONZE STATUE.
IT'S TOO WEIRD.
MAYBE SHE REALLY IS FROM THE NSA...
HOW WEIRD.. WHAT IS SHE THINKING...
LOOK, IT SAYS "THERE WILL ALSO BE MANY YOUNG MEN IN ATTENDANCE, SO PLEASE KEEP THIS EVENT A SECRET"
IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE WANTS TO SHOW OFF ANOTHER BRONZE STATUE THAT DOESN'T LOOK A THING LIKE HER
WHY DON'T WE FILL UP ON THE FOOD AND THEN JUST LEAVE!
YEAH, LET'S DO IT
HEY.. MAYBE WE SHOULD GO
.....
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S PLANNING TO SERVE A FEAST...

IT FILLS MY HEART WITH JOY TO HEAR THE PITTER-PATTER OF FEET SOUND THROUGH THE PARK EVERY DAY.
THAT PARK HOLDS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART. IT WAS BUILT BY MY HUSBAND, AFTER ALL.
THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR COMING.
HE HAS ONCE AGAIN CREATED A SPLENDID BRONZE STATUE FOR US.
THIS IS THE BRILLIANT SCULPTOR AND METAL CASTER, MR. TSUCHIYA!!
AS A SIGN OF APPRECIATION, WE'VE PREPARED A MODEST MEAL FOR YOU ALL. PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME AND ENJOY.

IT'S GOR-GEOUS!
WOW, IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
AND NOW, FOR THE MAIN EVENT, I WILL UNVEIL HIS LATEST CREATION!
I AGREE!
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I LOOK, IT TRULY IS A BEAUTIFUL BRONZE STATUE.
THIS IS REALLY DELI-CIOUS!
OH SURE!
IS YOUR GLASS EMPTY? HAVE SOME MORE

I FIRST CREATE A WAX TEMPLATE.
IN MY CASE, TO SUMMARIZE THE PROCESS...
MR. TSUCHIYA, HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR BRONZE STATUES?
COUGH COUGH
OF COURSE, THE STEPS ARE A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED THAN JUST THAT, BUT..
EXCUSE ME..
I THEN FILL IN THE SPACE LEFT BY THE MELTED WAX BY POURING IN BRONZE, AND WHAT'S LEFT IS THE GENERAL SHAPE OF THE STATUE.
THEN I FILL A PLASTER CAST WITH WAX AND ONCE IT HARDENS, I HEAT THE WAX TO MAKE IT MELT AND DRIP AWAY.
WHY DON'T YOU COME REST IN THE OTHER ROOM?
OH, MASTER, ARE YOU TIRED?
I'M NOT LONG FOR THIS WORLD, I'M AFRAID...
I'VE RUINED MY LUNGS FROM BREATHING IN ALL THOSE METALLIC PARTICLES OVER THE YEARS...

COUGH COUGH
I'LL BE BACK SOON EVERYONE, BUT PLEASE CONTINUE TO ENJOY YOURSELVES
WHERE THE HELL ARE THOSE "YOUNG MEN IN ATTENDANCE" WE PROMISED?! WE'VE BEEN HAD!
I'M REALLY SURPRISED!! WE WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO WERE INVITED!
THE REAL THING IS SO RETCHED, SO WHERE DID THIS STATUE EVEN COME FROM?!
IT'S A LAUGH, ALRIGHT! AHAHAH
STILL DOESN'T LOOK A THING LIKE HER, THOUGH
BUT, YOU KNOW, THAT THING IS REALLY VERY GOOD.
AND THE FOOD IS TERRIBLE!!

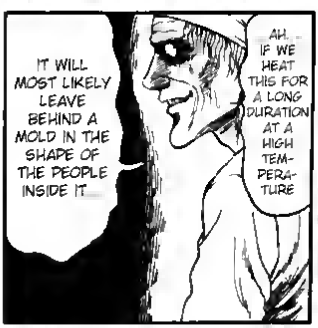
AHA HA HA HA HA HA
HO HO HO
AHA HAHA
AHAHA HAHA
WHAT THE?
IS THAT STATUE TALKING...
HEH HEH... YOU IDIOT. THIS IS THE VOICE OF THAT RETCHED HAG! I'M OVER IN THE NEXT ROOM!
EVEN IN THE PARK, YOU SPEND ALL YOUR TIME BAD-MOUTHING ME, DON'T YOU!!
I COULD HEAR EVERY-THING YOU'VE BEEN SAYING!

THE ONES IN THE PARK ARE THE SAME... EVEN WHEN I'M AT HOME, I CAN KEEP AN EYE AND AN EAR ON YOU!!
I'VE RIGGED THIS BRONZE STATUE WITH A SURVEILLANCE CAMERA AND LISTENING DEVICE... I'VE ALSO ADDED A SPEAKER!
I CAN TALK TO YOU AND YOUR FILTHY BRATS THROUGH THESE STATUES!!
AND IF I CHOOSE...
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR THE SEDATIVES TO KICK IN...
WELL, DO YOU FEEL YOURSELVES STARTING TO GET SLEEPY?
.....
GUH
ガタ

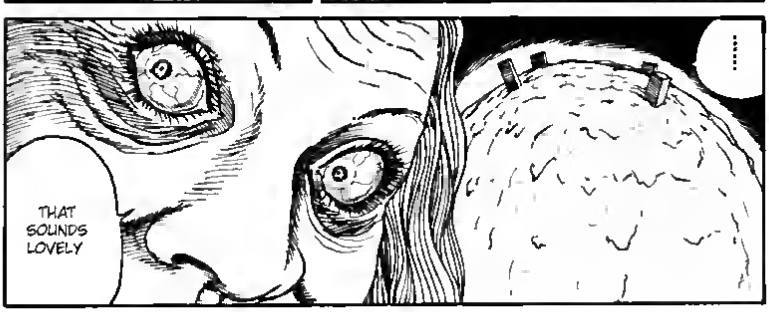
HEH HEH... THIS IS MASTER TSUCHIYA'S WORKSHOP... WE BROUGHT YOU HERE WHILE YOU WERE TAKING YOUR NAP.
YOU MON-STER!
UNTIE US NOW!
WHERE ARE WE?!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
THIS CAN'T BE
ALL YOU'VE GOT IN STORE!

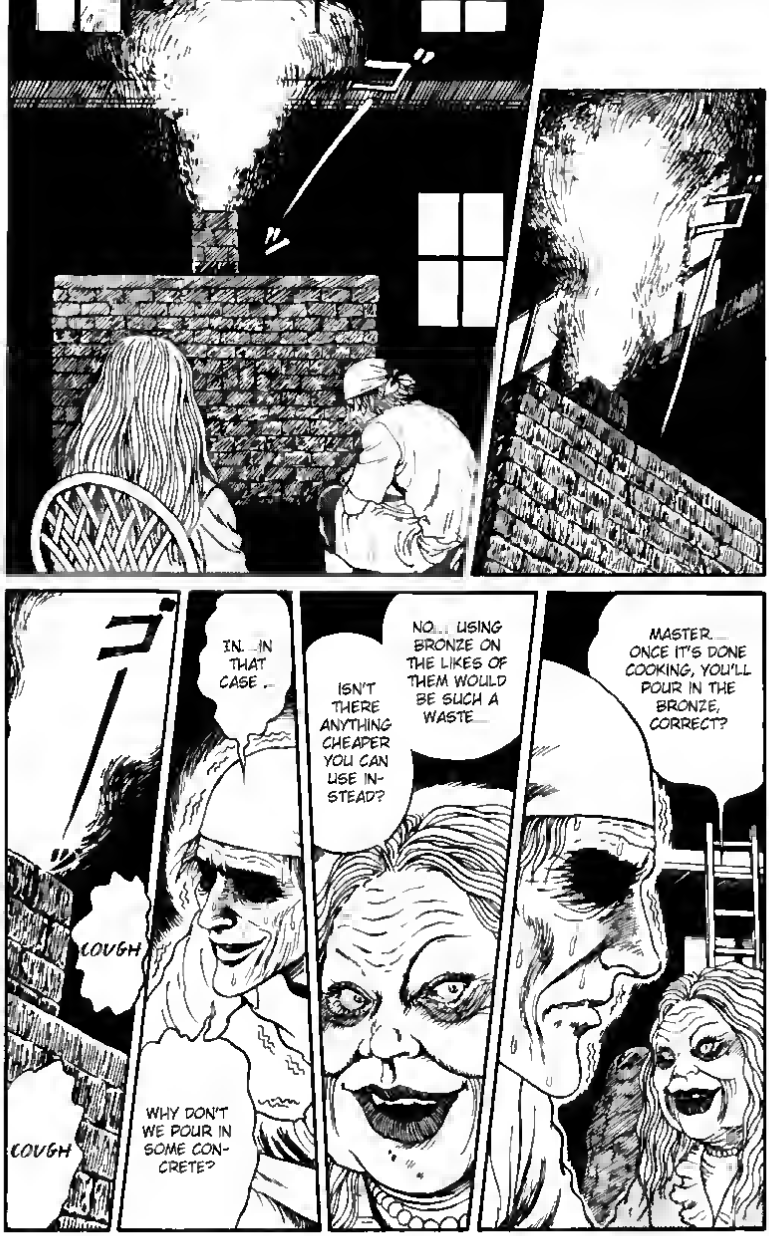
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
I DON'T INTEND TO LET YOU RETURN TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING
HEH HEH... THAT'S FOR SURE..
SO THEN YOU CAN FILL IT WITH WAX AND MAKE A MOLD OUT OF THEM...
WHY DON'T WE PUT THESE FOUR IN A PLASTER CAST...
MR. TSUCHIYA, I'VE JUST STRUCK UPON A SPLENDID IDEA.
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND, MY LADY.
HUFF... HUFF... HUFF...
I SEE..
MUR-DERER!
KYA AA AA

銅像
SOME-
BODY!
...AHHHHH
HAH...
HUFF...
HUFF...
WE FINALLY
DID IT...
WHEW
...
HEE
EEBE
BU
BU...
TN: Suffocating


AH... IF WE HEAT THIS FOR A LONG DURATION AT A HIGH TEMPERATURE
IT WILL MOST LIKELY LEAVE BEHIND A MOLD IN THE SHAPE OF THE PEOPLE INSIDE IT

HMM... ?
IF WE HEATED THIS IN THE KILN?
MASTER.. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...

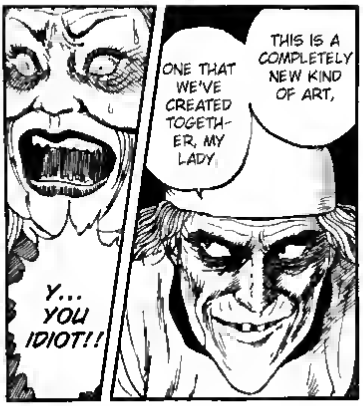

THAT SOUNDS LOVELY
.....


MASTER... ONCE IT'S DONE COOKING, YOU'LL POUR IN THE BRONZE, CORRECT?
NO... USING BRONZE ON THE LIKES OF THEM WOULD BE SUCH A WASTE...
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING CHEAPER YOU CAN USE INSTEAD?
IN...IN THAT CASE...
WHY DON'T WE POUR IN SOME CONCRETE?
COUGH
COUGH

WHO IS IT?
THIS IS THE POLICE
WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS
YES I DEFINITELY INVITED THE 4 OF THEM TO MY HOUSE FOR A PARTY ABOUT A WEEK AGO.
BUT THEY ALL LEFT AROUND MID-AFTERNOON
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY OF THEM SINCE THEN.

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
営業中
I'M CLEARLY UNDER SUSPICION!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO! SOME DETECTIVES SHOWED UP AT MY HOME!
MASTER!
MASTER TSUCHIYA!
土谷美術彫刻
MADAME, PLEASE TAKE A LOOK.
AS REQUESTED, I'VE CHISELED OUT THE HARDENED CONCRETE MOLD...
.....

THIS ART OF YOURS IS NOTHING BUT EVIDENCE OF THE CRIME!
HURRY... HURRY UP AND HELP ME SMASH IT INTO PIECES!


THIS IS A COMPLETELY NEW KIND OF ART,
ONE THAT WE'VE CREATED TOGETHER, MY LADY.
Y... YOU IDIOT!!

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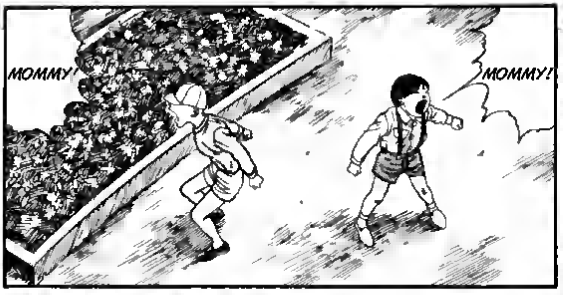
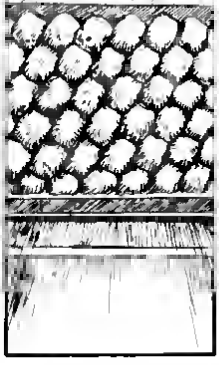
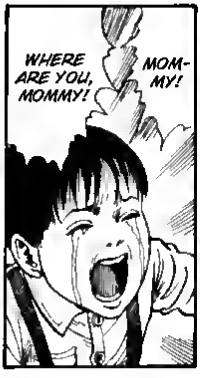

MOMMY!
MOMMY!

青銅町中央公園



HEY, SUSUMU
LET'S ASK THE BRONZE STATUE
OK.

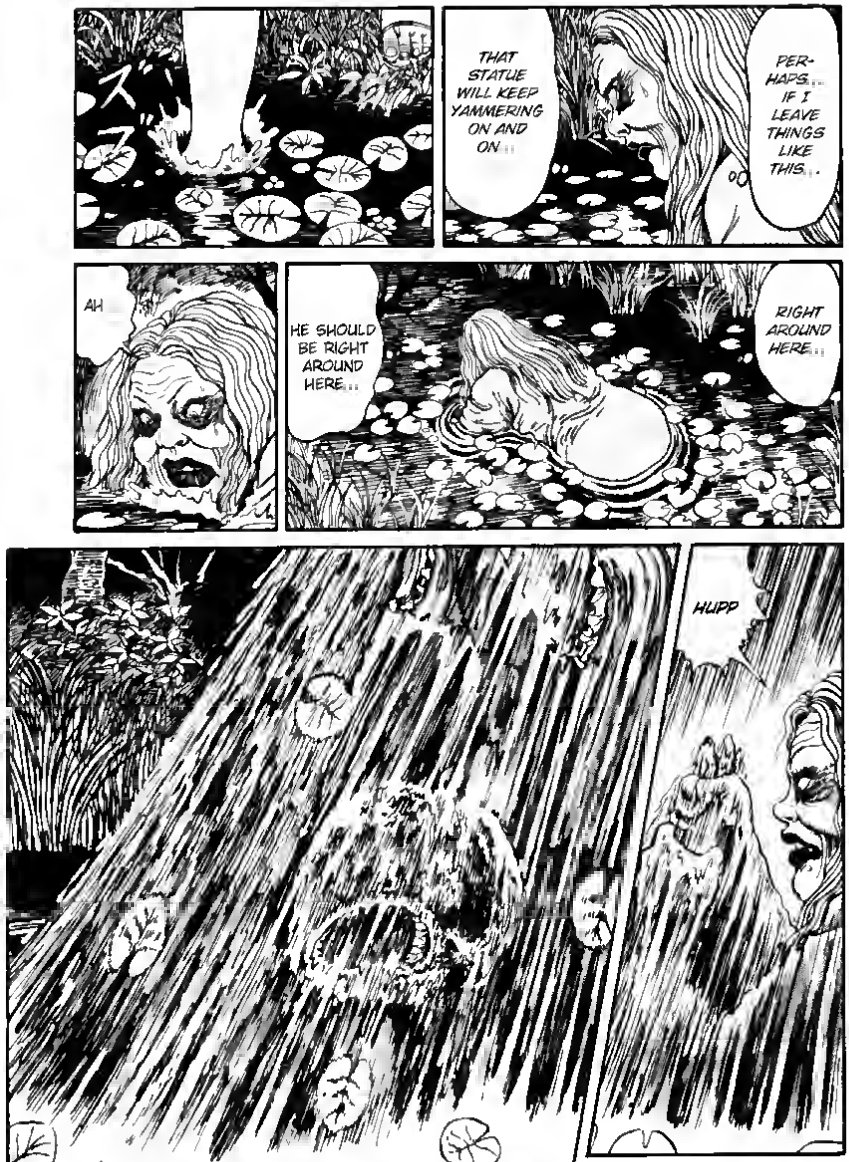

WHERE ARE YOU, MOMMY!
MOM-MY!

SHE HASN'T COME HOME YET
WHERE DID SHE GO?
STATUE, DO YOU KNOW WHERE MY MOMMY IS?
CHILDREN... YOUR MOTHERS WILL RETURN HOME ANY TIME NOW
ALL OF YOUR MOTHERS ARE JUST TAKING A NICE VACATION RIGHT NOW.
REALLY?!
REALLY

WHO'S THERE?
WHO ...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
THAT WOMAN IS LYING TO YOU!
LIAR!
WHA?!
IT'S COMING FROM OVER TO THE RIGHT...
SOMEONE IS TALKING TO THE RIGHT OF MY BRONZE STATUE.
THE SOUND'S COMING FROM THE HEADPHONES. SOMEONE IN THE PARK IS TALKING TO THEM.
CHILDREN, THIS WOMAN IS A MURDERER.
SHE'S A MURDEROUS DEMON!
SHE EVEN MURDERED ME!
CHILDREN!! THIS WOMAN KILLED YOUR MOTHERS AND BURIED THEM IN CONCRETE!
BUT, THIS VOICE...
I'VE HEARD IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE

I'M THIS WOMAN'S HUSBAND!!
SHE KILLED ME THREE YEARS AGO AND DUMPED MY BODY IN THE MARSH BEHIND HER GARDEN!
TH.. THIS VOICE!
....BUT... HOW?!
I SEE... THE VOICE IS COMING FROM HIS BRONZE STATUE!
IT'S HIM... HE'S THE ONE TALKING...
THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY DEVICES INSIDE OF THAT STATUE!
BUT, THAT'S WEIRD... HOW CAN HIS BRONZE STATUE BE TALKING...
I EXPRESSLY INSTRUCTED MR TSUCHIYA TO SET THEM UP IN MY STATUE ONLY!
CHILDREN! HURRY UP AND REPORT THIS WOMAN TO THE POLICE!!
I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS!
SHUT UP, YOU!!

HOW CAN A DEAD MAN SPEAK... AND FROM WHERE?
AND FURTHERMORE, EVEN IF THAT STATUE WAS RIGGED UP THE SAME WAY...
SOMEWHERE DEEP IN THIS SWAMP
THAT MAN SHOULD BE SLEEPING PEACEFULLY...
HAA
HAA
SWEETIE...
WERE YOU THE ONE TALKING JUST NOW?!
HONEY!!


ズブ
THAT STATUE WILL KEEP YAMMERING ON AND ON...
PERHAPS... IF I LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS...
AH...
HE SHOULD BE RIGHT AROUND HERE...
RIGHT AROUND HERE...
HUPP

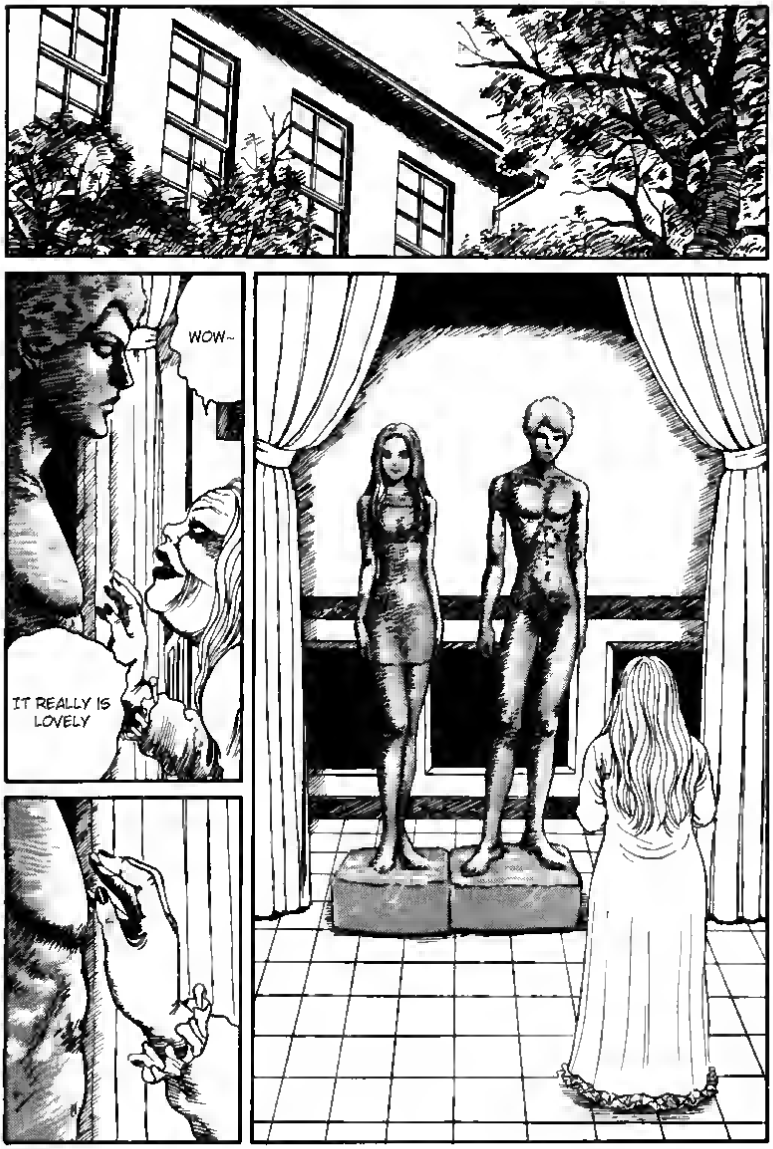
WAX?!
MY LADY, THIS IS...
YOUR HUSBAND HAS BEEN TURNED TO WAX
THE RESULTING SUBSTANCE IS CALLED "ADIPOCERE"
YES... UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, A DEAD BODY WILL CEASE TO PUTREFY AND DEVELOP WAX-LIKE PROPERTIES.
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TRY FIRST...
...AS YOU WISH... HOWEVER, BEFORE I INCINERATE IT COMPLETELY...
ANYWAY, LET'S HAUL THIS BACK TO MY WORKSHOP...
WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THIS BODY RIGHT AWAY!
WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING, MR. TSUCHIYA?!
PLEASE STUFF IT IN YOUR KILN AND BURN IT!

MASTER... WHAT IS IT THAT YOU PLAN TO DO, EXACTLY?
I'D PREFER IT IF YOU'D JUST HURRY UP AND TURN IT INTO ASH.
DON'T WORRY, I PLAN ON MAKING IT SO YOUR HUSBAND WILL BE TOTALLY UNRECOGNIZABLE.
EVEN IF THE POLICE DO COME, THEY'LL THINK IT'S JUST A REGULAR WAX STATUE.
YOUR HUSBAND WILL BE REBORN AS A WORK OF ART!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, MY LADY?

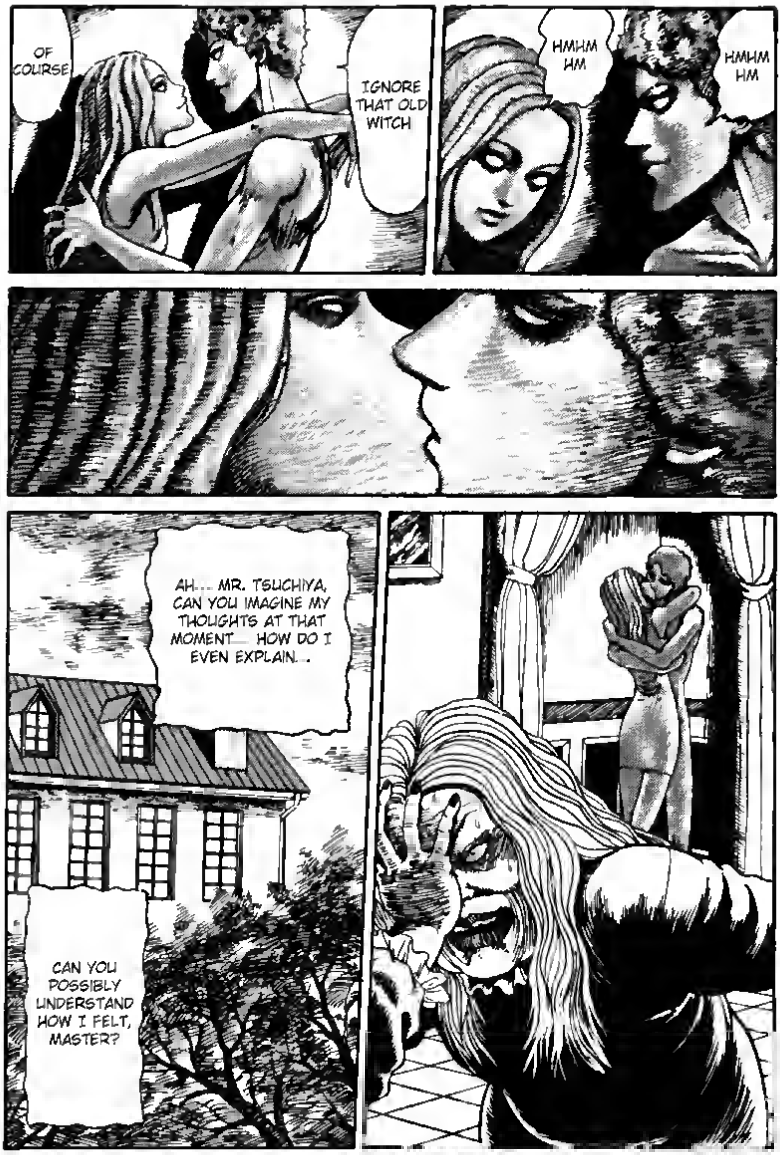
WHEW ..

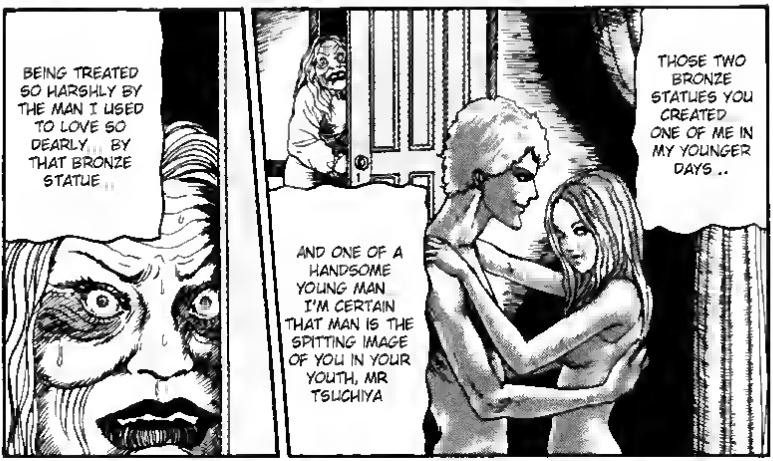
HE'S BREATH-TAKING...
MAS-TER, COULD YOU...
COULD YOU PERHAPS...
MY HUS-BAND...?
THIS IS...
OF COURSE I CAN!
CAN YOU TURN THIS INTO A BRONZE STATUE?
MAS-TER..
YES..


WOW~
IT REALLY IS LOVELY

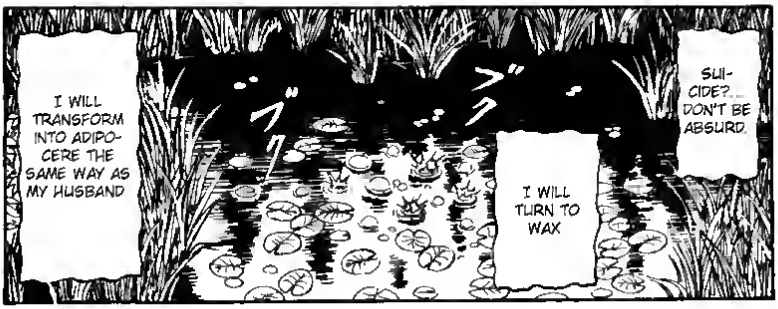
DID YOU JUST SPEAK?
WHA ...?!
DON'T TOUCH ME YOU HAG!
YOU'RE RUINING THE MOOD! GET OUT OF HERE!
HEY!! I WISH THIS OLD HAG WOULD JUST LEAVE US ALONE!!
...IT'S MY LIKE-NESS!
THIS IS MY BRONZE STATUE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THIS IS ME!
WHA ...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

HEY, YOU USED TO BE A FAT UGLY CODGER!
WH, WHAT!!
I'M NOT UGLY LIKE YOU...
YEAH
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HAVE YOU EVEN EVER SEEN YOUR OWN FACE...
YOU DON'T LOOK A THING LIKE THIS GORGEOUS BEAUTY!
.....
I'M A BRONZE STATUE
I'LL NEVER GROW OLD
THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL LOOK LIKE IN A FEW YEARS
AND YOU!
AN UGLY OLD MAID!!
.....
HM HM HM
AS FOR ME, I'M NOW YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL!!

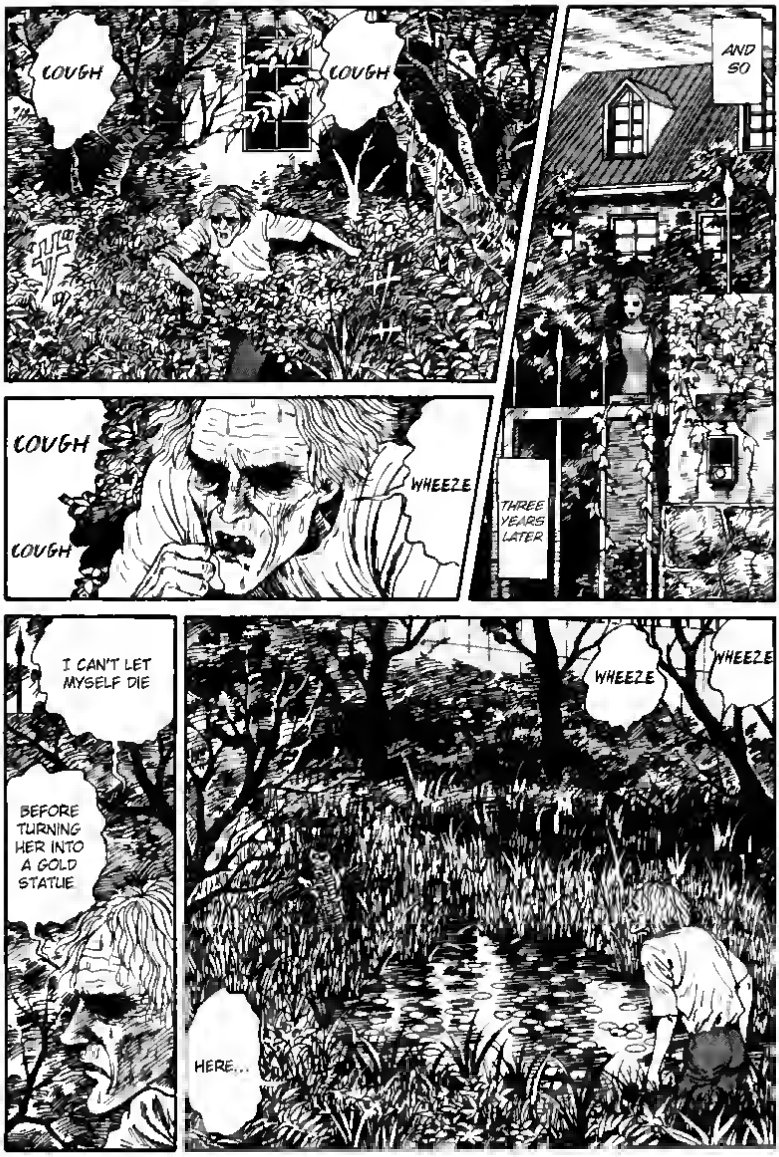

OF COURSE
IGNORE THAT OLD WITCH
HMHM HM
HMHM HM
AH... MR. TSUCHIYA, CAN YOU IMAGINE MY THOUGHTS AT THAT MOMENT... HOW DO I EVEN EXPLAIN...
CAN YOU POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND HOW I FELT, MASTER?


BEING TREATED SO HARSHLY BY THE MAN I USED TO LOVE SO DEARLY... BY THAT BRONZE STATUE...
AND ONE OF A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN. I'M CERTAIN THAT MAN IS THE SPITTING IMAGE OF YOU IN YOUR YOUTH, MR TSUCHIYA
THOSE TWO BRONZE STATUES YOU CREATED... ONE OF ME IN MY YOUNGER DAYS..

BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS LETTER I WILL ALREADY BE LAID TO REST AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SWAMP BEHIND MY GARDEN.
IN THAT MOMENT, MY MIND WAS MADE UP.

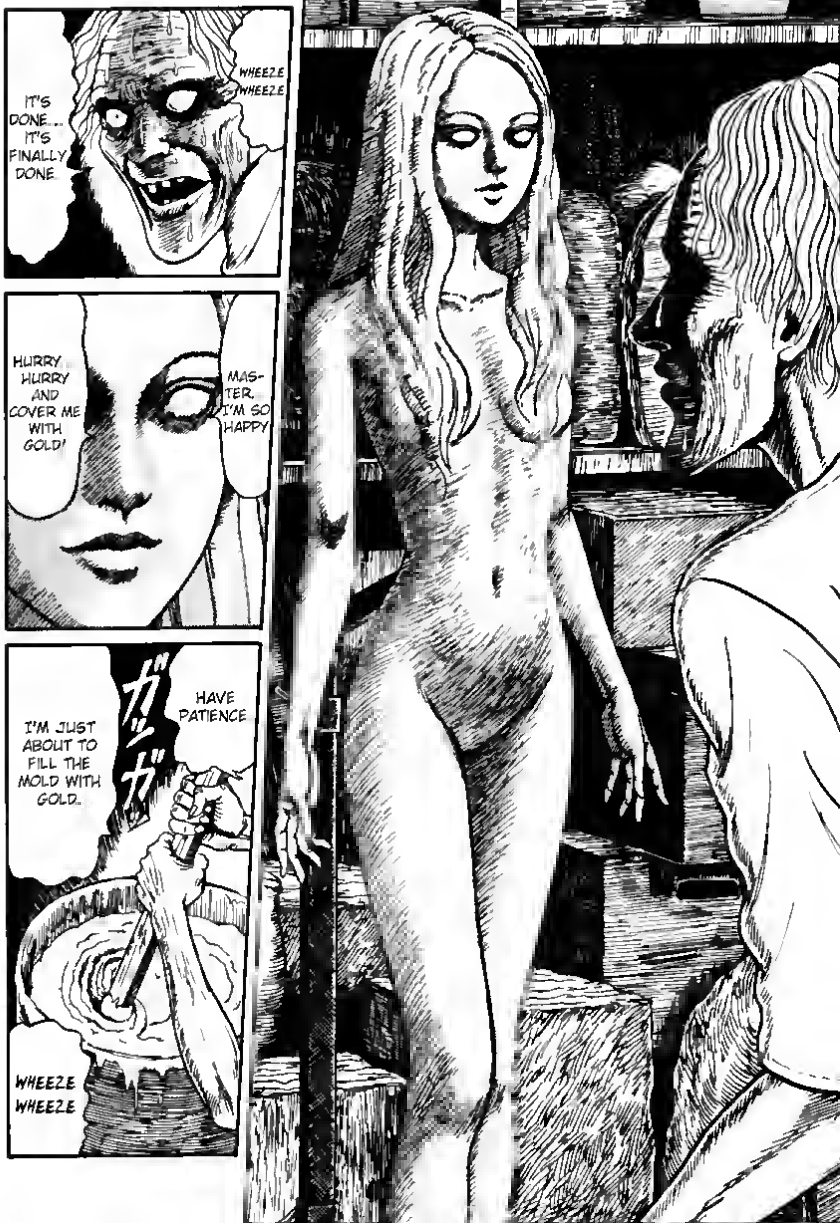

I WILL TRANSFORM INTO ADIPO-CERE THE SAME WAY AS MY HUSBAND
I WILL TURN TO WAX
SUI-CIDE?... DON'T BE ABSURD.

I DON'T CARE HOW YOU GET THE MONEY FOR THE GOLD SELL MY MANSION IF YOU HAVE TO
MASTER, PROMISE ME. PROMISE THAT, THREE YEARS FROM NOW, YOU WILL TRANSFORM ME INTO A GOLDEN GODDESS
AND AFTER THAT, WITH YOUR TALENTED HANDS, TURN ME INTO A STATUE
AND, MASTER... I HAVE ONE REQUEST. IN THREE YEARS, DREDGE UP MY BODY...
FINALLY, MASTER, I WANT YOU TO FILL MY MOLD WITH NOT BRONZE, BUT GOLD
I WILL BECOME THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING THIS WORLD HAS EVER SEEN
HOWEVER... SHE LET HERSELF GO AND DO SOMETHING RASH.
THERE'S NO QUESTION SHE DEVELOPED A PERSECUTION COMPLEX AND BEGAN TO SEE HALLUCINATIONS.
COUGH COUGH
THAT FOOL AS IF BRONZE STATUES COULD TALK OR MOVE AROUND

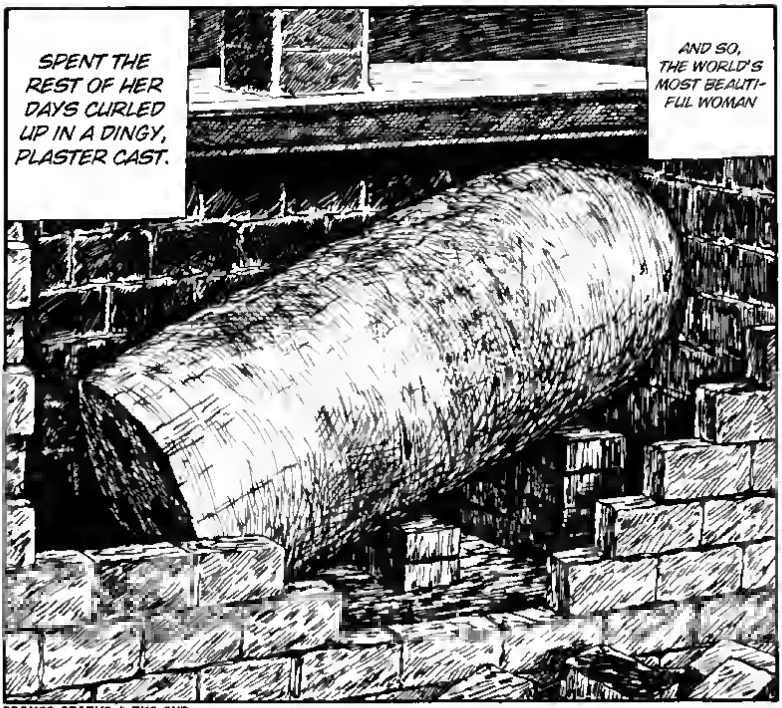

COUGH
COUGH
AND SO
COUGH
WHEEZE
COUGH
THREE YEARS LATER
I CAN'T LET MYSELF DIE
BEFORE TURNING HER INTO A GOLD STATUE
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
HERE...

WHEEZE
WHEEZE
OH...
WHERE....
WHERE....

WHEEZE
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
AS YOU REQUESTED
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
土谷美術鋳物
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
EVEN I'M STARTING TO HEAR STRANGE VOICES...
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW...
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
AND THEN I'LL COVER YOU FROM HEAD TO TOE WITH GOLD...
I'LL MAKE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD.
YOU'RE MAKING MY DREAM COME TRUE, MASTER...
. I'M SO HAPPY...


WHEEZE
WHEEZE
IT'S DONE... IT'S FINALLY DONE
MAS-TER. I'M SO HAPPY
HURRY HURRY AND COVER ME WITH GOLD!
ガッガ
HAVE PATIENCE
I'M JUST ABOUT TO FILL THE MOLD WITH GOLD.
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

AND WAIT IN THIS KILN AS IT HEATS UP..
AH, I'M SO HAPPY
AND FORMS A BEAUTIFUL SPACE INSIDE THE MOLD...
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO STAY IN THIS MOLD
COUGH
COUGH COUGH
I'LL BEWITCH THE WHOLE WORLD WITH MY SINGULAR BEAUTY
THAT WILL BE FILLED WITH GOLD, AND THEN,
I...IT BURNS...



BRONZE STATUE * THE END

DRIFTING SPORES
浮遊物

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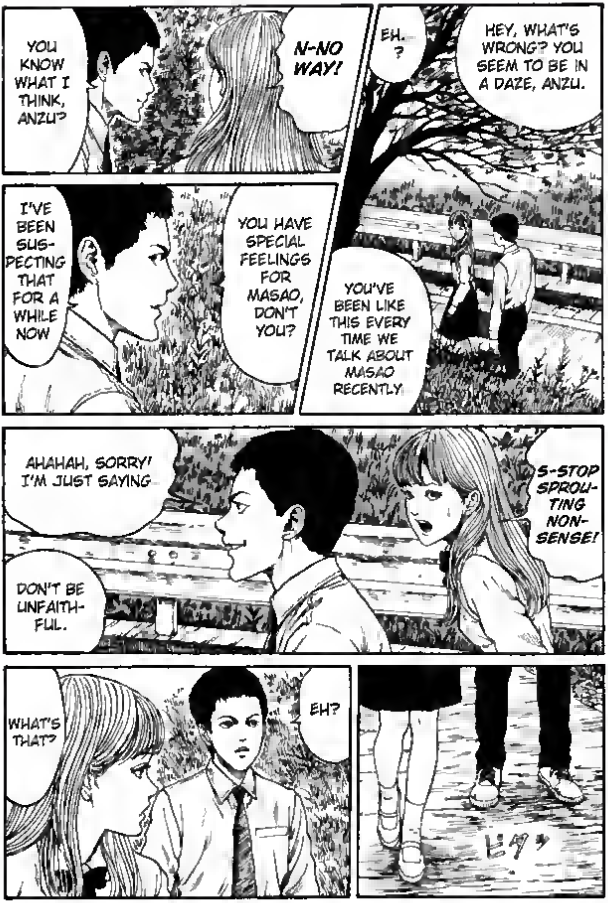
HMM?
IT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT, WHEN I WAS RETURNING HOME LATE DUE TO CLUB ACTIVITIES
WHAT IS HE DOING? IT'S ALREADY SO LATE
AH, ISN'T THAT MASAO?
HE HASN'T BEEN COMING TO SCHOOL RECENTLY...

HEY MASAO——!
UCK!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ARE YOU CATCH-ING MOTHS?
STAY AWAY!!
!?
STAY AWAY! MOVE TO THE SIDE!
I BEG YOU... RYOICHI, PLEASE, JUST GO AWAY!
W-WHAT THE HECK?
WHAT A WEIRD GUY...!!

I WONDER WHY HE WAS SO FIERCE
OH... MASAO-KUN?
IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING HIM LIKE THAT
IT WAS SOME-WHERE AROUND HERE
AND THAT'S IT.
OH ..
IT WAS DARK YESTERDAY, SO I COULDN'T SEE CLEARLY, BUT THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME BLACK THING FLYING AROUND
WHAT ON EARTH WAS HE CATCHING SO LATE AT NIGHT?
OH, I SEE...
BUT MAYBE IT'S NOT THAT CONVENIENT AFTER ALL, THAT INCIDENT YESTERDAY
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO VISIT HIM. HE'S ON SICK LEAVE ANYWAY.


HEY, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEM TO BE IN A DAZE, ANZU.
EH. ?
YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THIS EVERY TIME WE TALK ABOUT MASAO RECENTLY.
YOU HAVE SPECIAL FEELINGS FOR MASAO, DON'T YOU?
I'VE BEEN SUSPECTING THAT FOR A WHILE NOW
N-NO WAY!
YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK, ANZU?
S-STOP SPROUTING NONSENSE!
AHAHAH, SORRY! I'M JUST SAYING
DON'T BE UNFAITHFUL.
EH?
WHAT'S THAT?
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THERE'S SOMETHING HANGING ON THAT BRANCH.
IT LOOKS REALLY GROSS..
COULD IT BE SOME SORT OF SEED?
WHAT IS THAT?
WHAT ON EARTH...?

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ARRGH!
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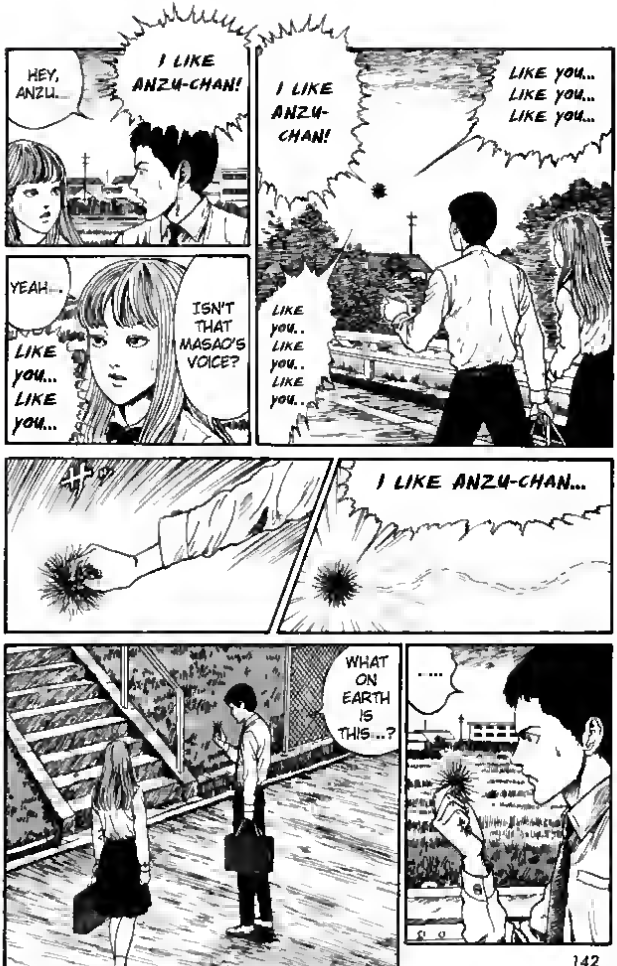
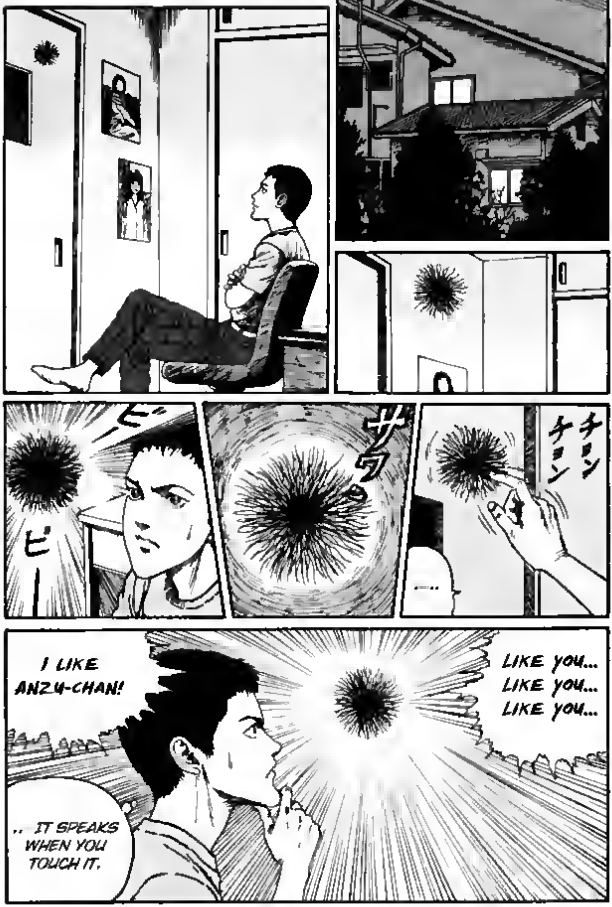
LIKE you...
LIKE you...
I—
I—
I—
?!
I LIKE ANZU-CHAN!
LIKE you!


HEY, ANZU...
I LIKE ANZU-CHAN!
I LIKE ANZU-CHAN!
LIKE YOU... LIKE YOU... LIKE YOU...
LIKE YOU.. LIKE YOU.. LIKE YOU..
YEAH...
ISN'T THAT MASAO'S VOICE?
LIKE YOU... LIKE YOU...
I LIKE ANZU-CHAN...
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS...?
....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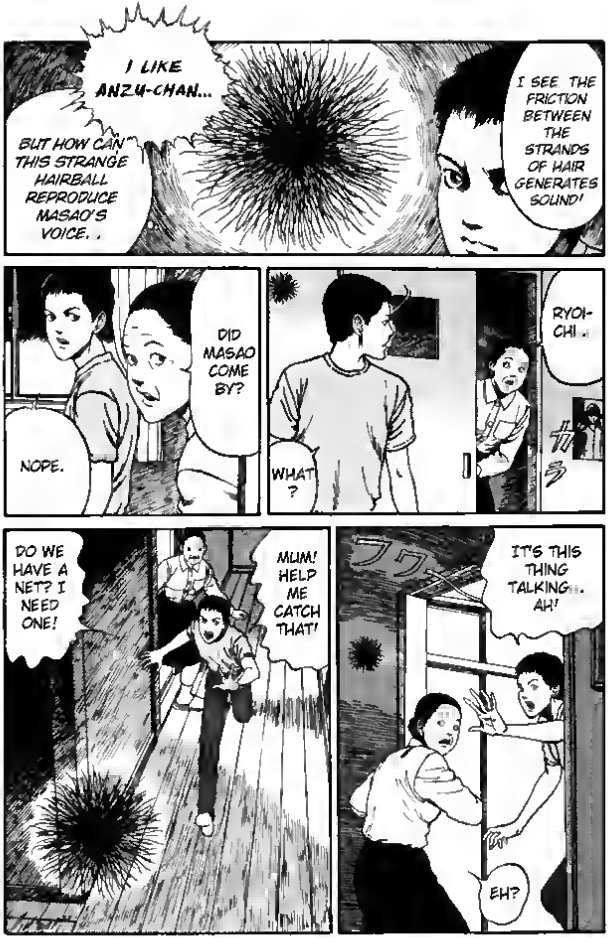
I LIKE ANZU-CHAN!
.. IT SPEAKS WHEN YOU TOUCH IT.
LIKE YOU... LIKE YOU... LIKE YOU...


I LIKE ANZU-CHAN...
BUT HOW CAN THIS STRANGE HAIRBALL REPRODUCE MASAO'S VOICE. .
I SEE. THE FRICTION BETWEEN THE STRANDS OF HAIR GENERATES SOUND!
DID MASAO COME BY?
NOPE.
WHAT?
RYOI-CHI..
DO WE HAVE A NET? I NEED ONE!
MUM! HELP ME CATCH THAT!
IT'S THIS THING TALKING... AH!
EH?

THIS MYSTERIOUS PLANT HAS SPURRED MANY THEORIES.
IT IS SAID TO FEED ON WHITE POWDER.
WHAT IS THAT?
ISN'T THIS THE KESARAN PASARAN*?
WELL, IT PROBABLY HAD MISTAKEN INK FOR WHITE POWDER.
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HONEY, ISN'T THE KESARAN PASARAN A WHITE FUR BALL? IT ISN'T PITCH BLACK.
I'LL GO OVER TO MASAO'S HOUSE TOMORROW.
WHEN IS IT GOING TO SHUT UP?
I LIKE ANZU-CHAN!
LIKE YOU... LIKE YOU... LIKE YOU...

* re. note ケサランパサラン (kesaranpasaran) is a mysterious object similar in appearance to a dandelion puff. It's said to be inhabited by a spirit of good fortune that grows when you feed it face powder and is usually given to daughters as a lucky charm.

I-I SEE...
WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS THING?
... AND THAT'S HOW IT WAS, MASAO.
'I LIKE ANZU-CHAN.'
AH? YEAH, IT SAID ..
DID THE HAIRBALL SAY ANY-THING TO YOU OR ANZU-CHAN?
THEN ...
AHH... MASA..
EVERYTHING IT SAYS IS A LIE.
I-IS THAT SO? PLEASE, JUST IGNORE IT.

I'VE GOT SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SHOW YOU!
COME HERE!
WHAT NOW, KAZUYA?
HEY, RYOI-CHI—!
THIS.
WHAT'S SO INTER-ESTING?
WHAT IS IT?

WEIRD ISN'T IT?
IT WAS FLOATING AROUND MY BACKYARD, SO I WENT AND CAUGHT IT.
AH! THAT...! HOW DID YOU GET THAT?
THE CONTENTS ARE EVEN MORE SHOCKING!
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? AND GUESS WHO DOES IT SOUNDS LIKE? YOU'LL BE SURPRISED; IT'S MASAO'S VOICE!
AND THE BEST PART? IT CAN TALK!
PEOPLE LIKE YOU OUGHT TO DIE! I'LL KILL YOU ONE OF THESE DAYS!
DAMN THAT ASSHOLE, KAMA-MURA!
HE'S SO ANNOYING!
OOH, LOOK AT IT MOVE!
IT'S GOING TO TALK!

MASAO ONLY RESPONDS TO HIM SOMETIMES, SO I THOUGHT HE COULDN'T EVEN BE BOTHERED.
KAMA-MURA IS THE GUY WHO KEEPS CLINGING ONTO MASAO
ISN'T IT FASCINATING? YOU'D NEVER THINK THAT IT'S THE SAME WELL-BEHAVED MASAO WOULD YOU?
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS STRANGE HAIRBALL SPEAKS OF MASAO'S HONEST FEELINGS
THE TRUTH IS, MASAO HATES HIS GUTS
IT KEEPS REPEATING THE SAME WORDS.
DAMN THAT ASSHOLE, KAMAMURA! HE'S SO ANNOYING! PEOPLE LIKE YOU OUGHT TO DIE! I'LL KILL YOU ONE OF THESE DAYS!
IT SAID DIFFERENT THINGS, SO THEY'RE PROBABLY NOT THE SAME HAIRBALL
I ALREADY KNOW THAT, I USED TO HAVE ONE OF THOSE
EH? YOU HAD ONE?!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY IT TALKS BUT ISN'T THIS FUN?

ARE YOU STUPID?! HOW CAN I JUST GIVE THIS AWESOME TREASURE TO HIM?!
YOU SHOULD RETURN THAT TO MASAO TOO, KAZUYA STOP BEING SO EVIL
STOP IT! RETURN IT TO HIM!
YOU... WHAT?! YOU'RE SO STUPID!
YEAH, AND I RETURNED IT TO MASAO
YOU COULD'VE JUST GIVEN IT TO ME INSTEAD!
HMPH... WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING SO HONEST ANYWAY?
LET'S GO IN FROM THE BACK, PERHAPS HE'S HOLED UP IN HIS ROOM
ISN'T HE HOME?

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SHUT UP, HE'S A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE.
SNEAKING IN FROM THE BACK HUH? AREN'T YOU JUST AS EVIL?
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WHAT'S HAPPENING? IT'S SO NOISY
ARE YOU HOME?
HEY, MASAO!
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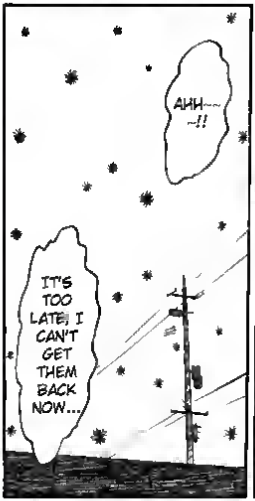
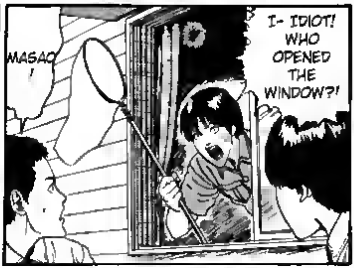

AHH---!!
IT'S TOO LATE; I CAN'T GET THEM BACK NOW...


MASAO!
I- IDIOT! WHO OPENED THE WINDOW?!

QUICK! HELP ME GET THOSE BACK!

HAVE A TASTE OF MY EXPERT BUG-CATCHING SKILLS!
IT'S OKAY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, MASAO!
DID YOU BREED THOSE THINGS?
WHAT THE HELL ARE THOSE, MASAO? ARE THEY ALIVE?
AH THEY'RE DRIFTING FURTHER AWAY!
I-IMPOSSIBLE, YOU'LL NEVER CATCH THEM ALL!
AHH... I'M SO DEAD.
CAME OUT?
THEY CAME OUT NATURALLY!
HECK NO! NO WAY!

JUST ONCE, I WANT TO KISS ANZU-CHAN!
DAMN IT! RYOICHI FOUND OUT THAT I HAVE A CRUSH ON ANZU-CHAN
ANZU-CHAN WOULD HAVE BEEN MINE IF RYOICHI WAS NOT HERE!
THOSE ARE NOT MY GENUINE FEEL-INGS!
NO! NO WAY!
ARE THOSE YOUR HONEST FEELINGS, MASAO?!
I'M INNOCENT!
I-I WILL NEVER THINK OF SUCH AWFUL THINGS!

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THE NEXT DAY, KAZUYA BROUGHT A HUGE AMOUNT OF THOSE HAIRBALLS TO SCHOOL
K-KAZUYA, YOU..
MORNING, RYOICHI! MY SKILLS ARE PRETTY IM-PRESSIVE EH?
I MANAGED TO CATCH MOST OF THEM.
— WHY DID YOU BRING THEM TO SCHOOL?
I WANTED TO SHARE THIS WITH EVERYONE
KAZUYA !!
THERE'S NO USE PROTESTING — I TRIED MY BEST AND .
I ACTUALLY PREVENTED THESE FROM SPREADING EVERY-WHERE!

WHY DOES IT SOUND LIKE MASAO?
WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?
I THINK THESE ARE MASAO'S SUPPRESSED NEGATIVE THOUGHTS, WHICH MATERIALIZED WHEN THEY BECAME TOO MUCH
THIS IS SO SHOCKING, WHO WOULD'VE GUESSED THAT MASAO THOUGHT OF SUCH THINGS?
NO WAY THESE ARE PART OF MY PRECIOUS COLLECTION!
IT SEEMS FUN.
CAN YOU GIVE ME ONE, KAZUYA? JUST ONE.
ONE HAIRBALL REPRESENTS ONE TRUTH.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE MORE HAIRBALLS, THE MORE OF MASAO'S HONEST FEELINGS WE CAN HEAR.

KAZUYA IS SO PATHETIC.
AT THIS RATE, HE'LL BE EVEN LESS INCLINED TO COME TO SCHOOL...
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO MASAO NOW?
WHAT WOULD BE A SWIFT DEATH?
AHH~ I WANT TO GO OUT AND PLAY.
I'M SO DEAD I'M SO DEAD.

MY THROAT HAD BEEN UNCOMFORTABLE FOR A LONG TIME
WHEN I COUGHED, I NOTICED MANY SMALL SPOTS IN MY PHLEGM.
THEY APPEARED TWO DAYS AGO...
I'M SO DEAD.
I'M SO DEAD.
I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SAND THAT HAD GONE IN MY MOUTH.
NOW WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, THOSE SMALL PARTICLES MUST BE THE CAUSE OF THIS
THOSE PARTICLES WERE EXPELLED FROM MY OWN BODY
AND GRADUALLY, THEY WERE ALL AROUND MY ROOM.
THE PARTICLES SLOWLY GREW INTO THESE ANNOYING HAIRBALLS, JUST FLOATING AROUND THE PLACE
THEY EVEN IMITATED MY VOICE
WHY IS THIS ONLY HAPPENING TO ME ..?
AHH... I WANT TO DIE.
I'M SO DEAD.

GO ON! GET OUT!
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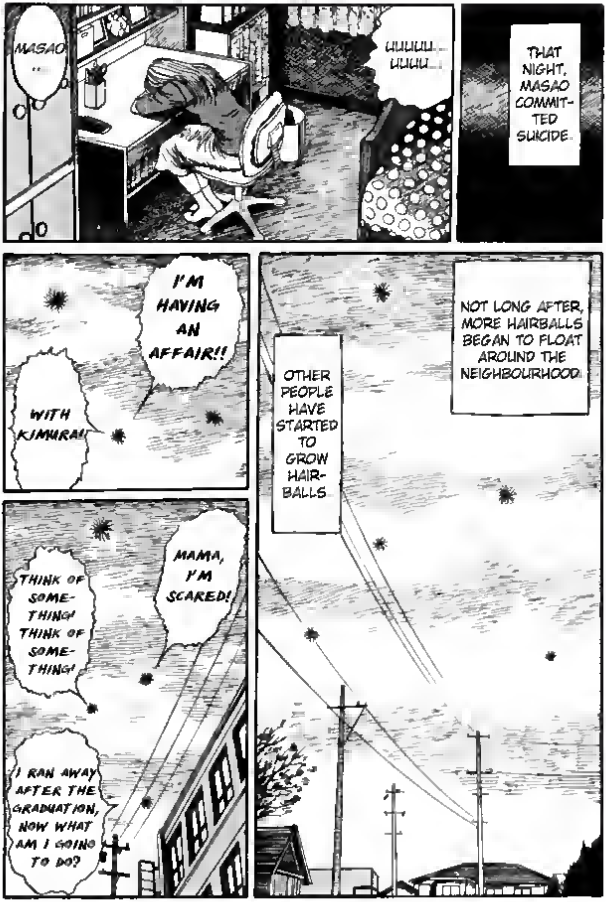
IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE, THEN GET OUT!
WHATEVER! YOU ANNOYING HAIRBALLS!
WHAT WOULD BE A SWIFT DEATH?
DAMN IT!
I'M SO DEAD, I'M SO DEAD.
WHAT WOULD BE A SWIFT DEATH?
...!
ANZU-CHAN...

...PLEASE DON'T THINK ABOUT DYING.
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU, SO HERE I AM.
THEN... ARE THE ONES ABOUT ME LIES TOO?
THEY ARE ALL LIES.
ANZU-CHAN, PLEASE DON'T LISTEN TO THOSE HAIR-BALLS
IS THAT SO...?
THOSE ARE LIES TOO. THEY'RE SO TROUBLE-SOME...
YEAH


MASAO...
UUUUU... UUUU...
THAT NIGHT, MASAO COMMITTED SUICIDE.
I'M HAVING AN AFFAIR!!
WITH KIMURA!
NOT LONG AFTER, MORE HAIRBALLS BEGAN TO FLOAT AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.
OTHER PEOPLE HAVE STARTED TO GROW HAIRBALLS.
MAMA, I'M SCARED!
THINK OF SOMETHING! THINK OF SOMETHING!
I RAN AWAY AFTER THE GRADUATION, NOW WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

HEY— THAT'S MINE!
YAY— I CAUGHT IT!
MY PILES HURT!
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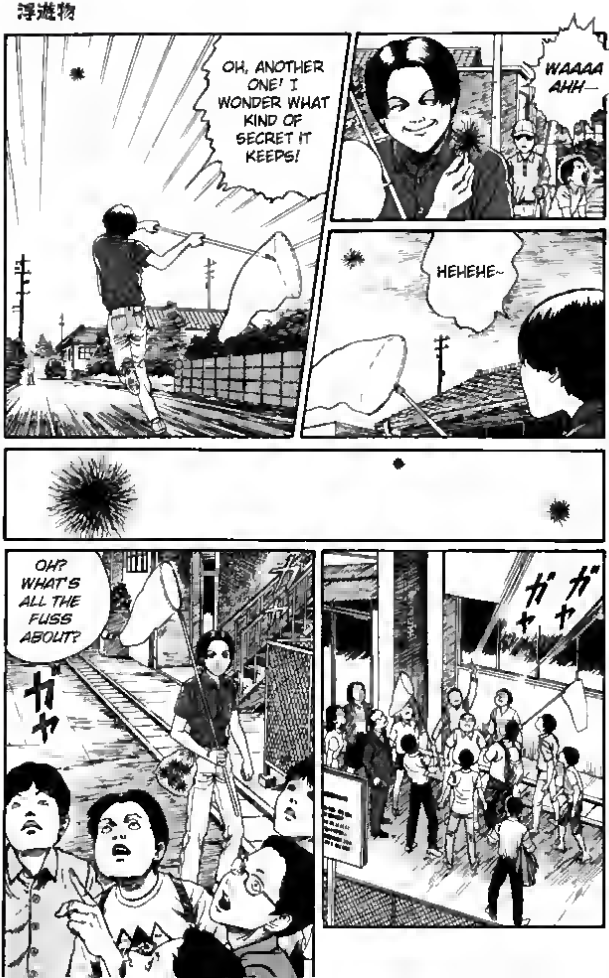
AH!!
NO, IT'S MINE!
NO WAY! I'M THE ONE WHO CAUGHT IT!
HAND IT OVER, THAT'S MINE!
SHUT UP!
WHAT THE HELL! GIVE IT BACK!
I'M THE ONE WHO STARTED THIS HAIR-BALL-CATCHING BUSINESS!
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO CATCH HAIRBALLS IN THIS AREA!


OH, ANOTHER ONE! I WONDER WHAT KIND OF SECRET IT KEEPS!
WAAAA AHH—
HEHEHE~
OH? WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
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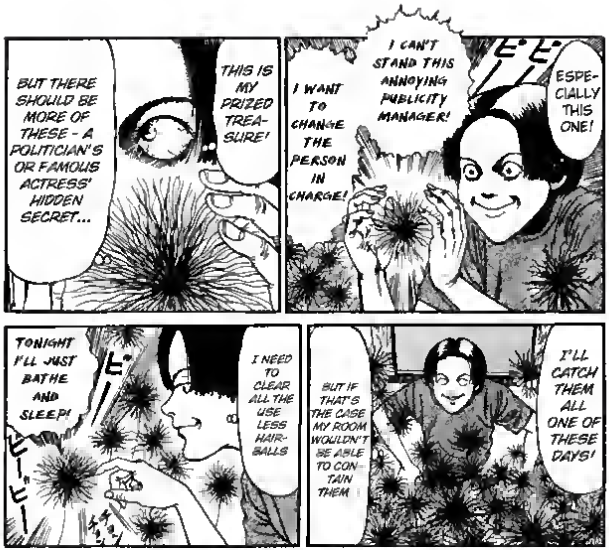
I WANT TO CHANGE THE PERSON IN CHARGE!
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANNOYING PUBLICITY MANAGER!
KAMINO MIYO'S HAIR-BALL?!
WHAT ?!
A STAR'S HAIR-BALL?!
THAT MUST BE—! THAT VOICE—!
IT'S KAMINO MIYO'S HAIR-BALL!
QUICK! CATCH IT!
IT'S USE-LESS, I CAN'T CATCH IT!
THE NUMBER OF HAIRBALL COLLECTORS ALSO INCREASED RAPIDLY, TO AN EXTENT WHERE IT CAUSED MANY ARGUMENTS AND EVEN MURDERS
THE NUMBER OF HAIRBALLS INCREASED RAPIDLY.

HELLO, AUNTIE!
IS ANZU HOME?
RYOICHI..
I'M SORRY, ANZU'S NOT FEELING WELL..
MUM!
IT'S OKAY. LET HIM IN.
ANZU..

RYOI-CHI...
I GOT IT TOO...
I LIKE MASAO!
I...
EVEN THOUGH RYOICHI IS EASIER TO READ...
BUT I'M CONSTANTLY ATTRACTED TO MASAO'S MYS-TERIOUS AURA.
I'M SORRY, RYOI-CHI.

A FIRE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLEAR THESE THINGS.
OKAY
HE'S SO FIRED UP LATELY, AND HE SEEMS TO HAVE GONE OVERBOARD.
IT WOULD SPELL TROUBLE FOR YOU IF THESE GOT OUT AND WERE CAUGHT BY KAZUYA
YOU'D BETTER GET RID OF THESE HAIR-BALLS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ANZU.
HEHEHE ~
OHOHO ~
TRULY MAG-NIFI-CENT!
HEHEHE~


BUT THERE SHOULD BE MORE OF THESE - A POLITICIAN'S OR FAMOUS ACTRESS' HIDDEN SECRET...
THIS IS MY PRIZED TREASURE!
I WANT TO CHANGE THE PERSON IN CHARGE!
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANNOYING PUBLICITY MANAGER!
ESPECIALLY THIS ONE!
TONIGHT I'LL JUST BATHE AND SLEEP!
I NEED TO CLEAR ALL THE USE LESS HAIRBALLS
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE MY ROOM WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CONTAIN THEM
I'LL CATCH THEM ALL ONE OF THESE DAYS!
EEEEY-AAAAAH!!!!!!!
TONIGHT I'LL JUST BATHE...
YOU'RE BORING

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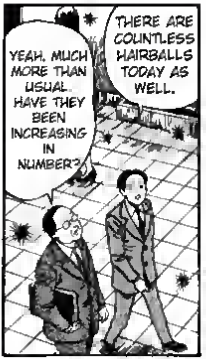
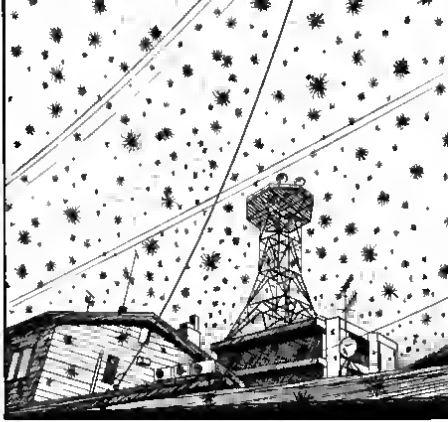
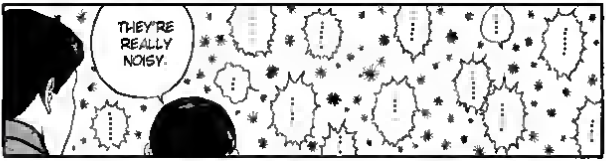
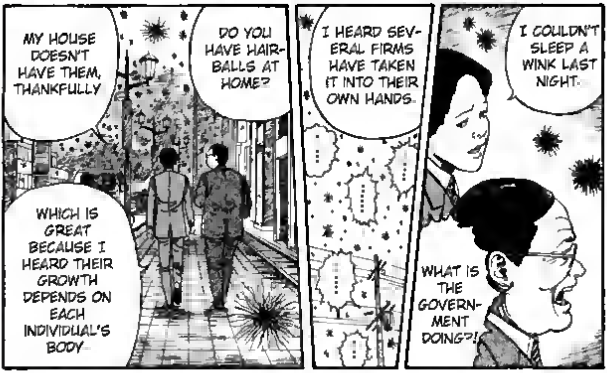
AH! SHIT!
THAT DYING SCREAM WAS PRICELESS!
AHA-HA-HA!!
STAY FOCUSED WHEN YOU'RE DRIVING, RETARD-
MUM, I'M SORRY!
MY PILES HURT!
WHEN WILL HE BE BACK?
THIS IS THE BEST!
DAMN, I'M GOING TO BE LATE!
MY ATHLETE'S FOOT FEELS TICKLISH!
UWAH!!
GUESS I CAN'T HELP IT.
JUST ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHING THEM WILL CAUSE THEM TO SPEAK SIMULTANEOUSLY
.....
HAHA... AHA-HAHA!!


THERE ARE COUNTLESS HAIRBALLS TODAY AS WELL.
YEAH. MUCH MORE THAN USUAL. HAVE THEY BEEN INCREASING IN NUMBER?




THEY'RE REALLY NOISY.


MY HOUSE DOESN'T HAVE THEM, THANKFULLY
DO YOU HAVE HAIRBALLS AT HOME?
WHICH IS GREAT BECAUSE I HEARD THEIR GROWTH DEPENDS ON EACH INDIVIDUAL'S BODY.
I HEARD SEVERAL FIRMS HAVE TAKEN IT INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.
I COULDN'T SLEEP A WINK LAST NIGHT.
WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING?!

WHERE ARE THE HAIR-BALLS THAT I'VE COL-LECTED?
WHAT'S WRONG, KAZUYA?
HEY, MUM!
MUM!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
YOU...!
THE NOISE THEY MAKE IS UNBEAR-ABLE
I THREW THOSE GHASTLY THINGS AWAY!
YOU SHOULD CHANGE THAT WEIRD COLLEC-TION HABIT OF YOURS KAZUYA!
N-NO WAY...!
Y-YOU THREW THEM ALL AWAY?!
YOUR DAD IS PROB-ABLY CRYING IN HEAVEN SEEING YOU LIKE THIS!
YES, ALL OF THEM.

UGGH HI!
ガン
SHUT UP!
ガン
ガン
EEEEY-AA!!
OUCH!
YOU... WHAT RE YOU DOING?
HUFF...
HUFF...
HOW DARE YOU DO THAT TO MY PRECIOUS COLLEC-TION?!

HUH.
HUH.
HUFF HUFF
ブワー
AH!
EH
BI BI BI BI
T-THERE'S STILL ONE LEFT...
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PLEASE, PLEASE LET THIS BE KAMINO MIYO'S!
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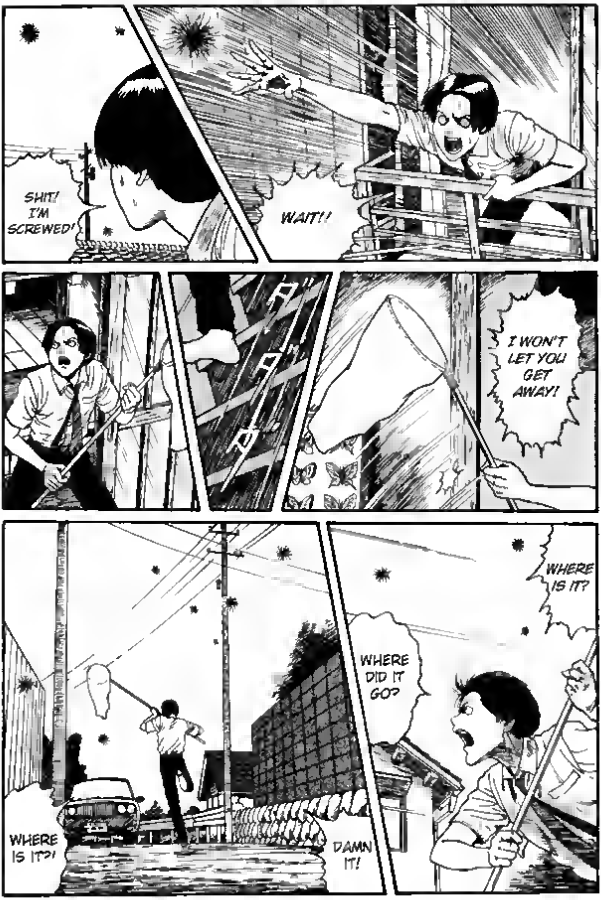
SFX: BII-I
SFX: ZAWA!

WHAT?!
WH—
I CAN LEARN OTHER PEOPLE'S SECRETS!
HEHEHE, THESE HAIRBALLS ARE SO FUN...
HEHE HE~!
I CAN LEARN OTHER PEOPLE'S SECRETS!
HEHEHE, THESE HAIRBALLS ARE SO FUN...
HEHE HE~!
ISN'T THAT MY VOICE..?
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?! I THOUGHT MY BODY ISN'T SUITABLE FOR THE GROWTH OF HAIRBALLS!
OH RIGHT, LATELY, MY MOUTH..
AH, DAMN!
THE WINDOW'S STILL OPEN!


SHIT! I'M SCREWED!
WAIT!!
I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY!
WHERE IS IT?
WHERE DID IT GO?
DAMN IT!
WHERE IS IT?!

AH, SO TIRED..
DAMN, IT ESCAPED!
I'LL FIND IT TOMORROW!
AAAHHH!!

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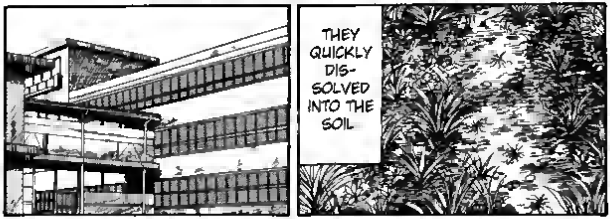
I DIDN'T CLOSE IT!
AH, DAMN! THE WINDOW!
I KILLED MY MUM!
I KILLED SOMEONE TO GET KAMINO MIYO'S HAIRBALL!
SHIT, THERE'S STILL SOME MORE!

THE MAJORITY OF THE HAIRBALLS HAD STOPPED FLOATING AND FELL TO THE GROUND.
FROM THEN ON, THE HAIRBALLS SUDDENLY BEGAN TO DECREASE RAPIDLY IN NUMBERS.


THEY QUICKLY DIS-SOLVED INTO THE SOIL.

OKAY...
THE HAIRBALLS HAVE ALMOST VANISHED, SO YOU SHOULD CHEER UP A BIT.
HEY, THIS THING IS FINALLY COMING TO AN END, ANZU.
HEHE-HE-HE...

REST IN PEACE IN OUR GARDEN, MUM!
I PITY MUM THOUGH
IN FACT, I WAS COMPLETELY STUNNED!
THAT REALLY SCARED ME...
WHAT'S ALL THAT FUSS...?
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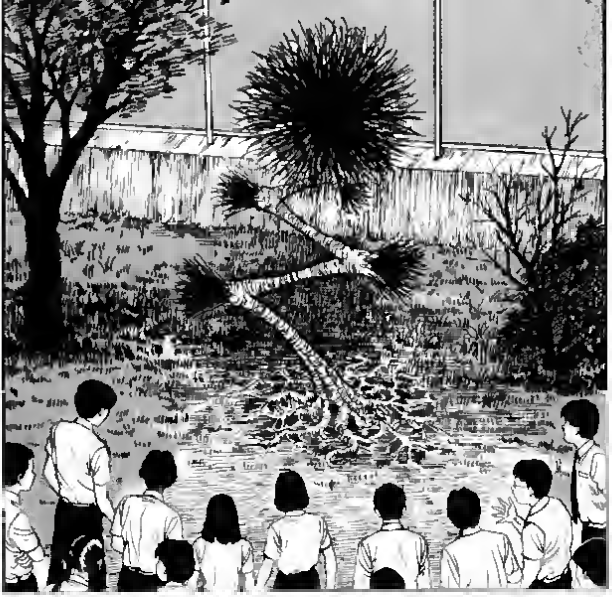
ガヤガヤ
IT'S AT THE CORNER OF THE FIELD, WAS IT THERE BEFORE?
HEY, WHAT'S THAT?



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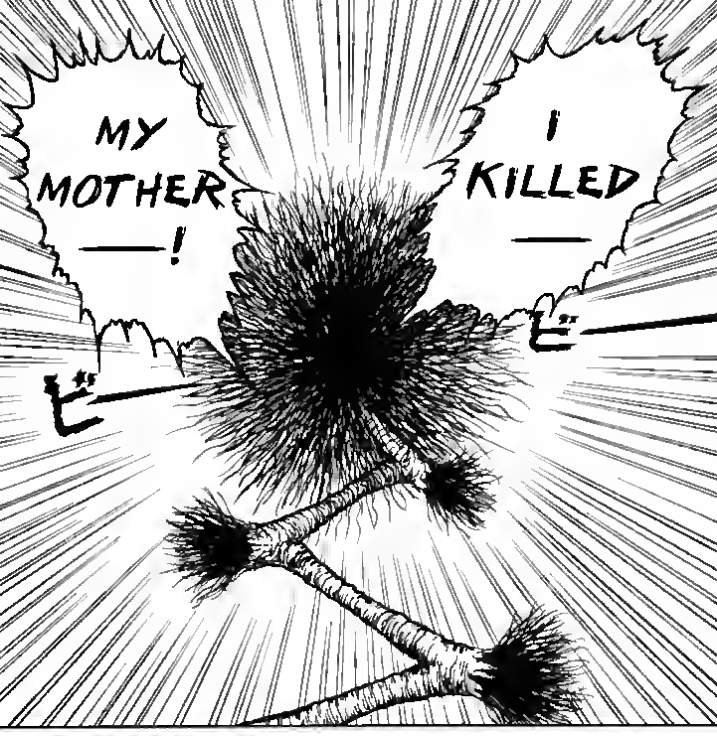
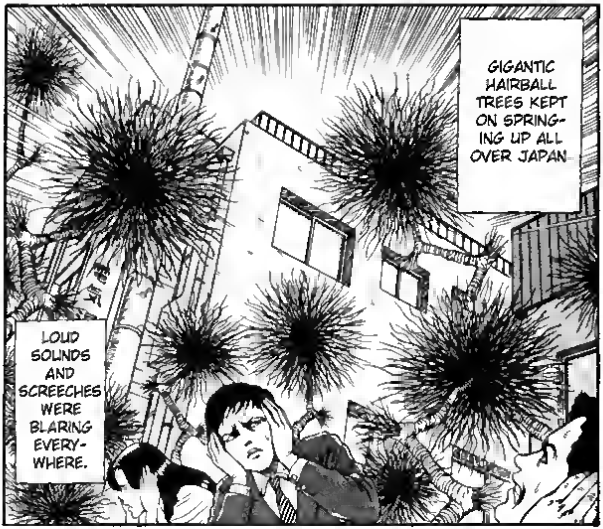
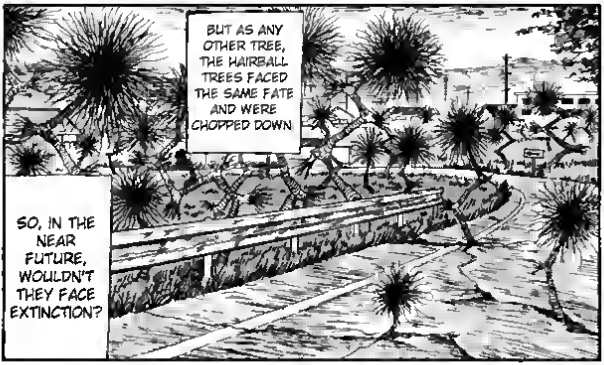
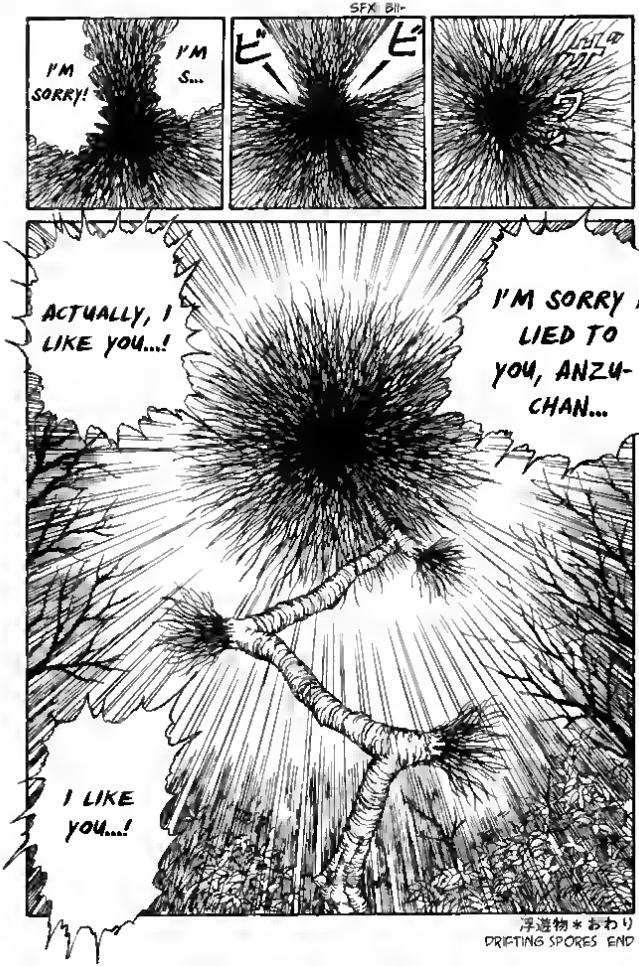
IT LOOKS LIKE A GIGAN-TIC-SIZED HAIR-BALL!!
WHAT KIND OF PLANT IS THIS...?
I DON'T THINK IT WAS HERE BEFORE


MY MOTHER——!
I KILLED——
ITS LOUD VOICE BLASTED IN ALL DIRECTIONS.
INDEED, THAT WAS KAZUYA'S VOICE.

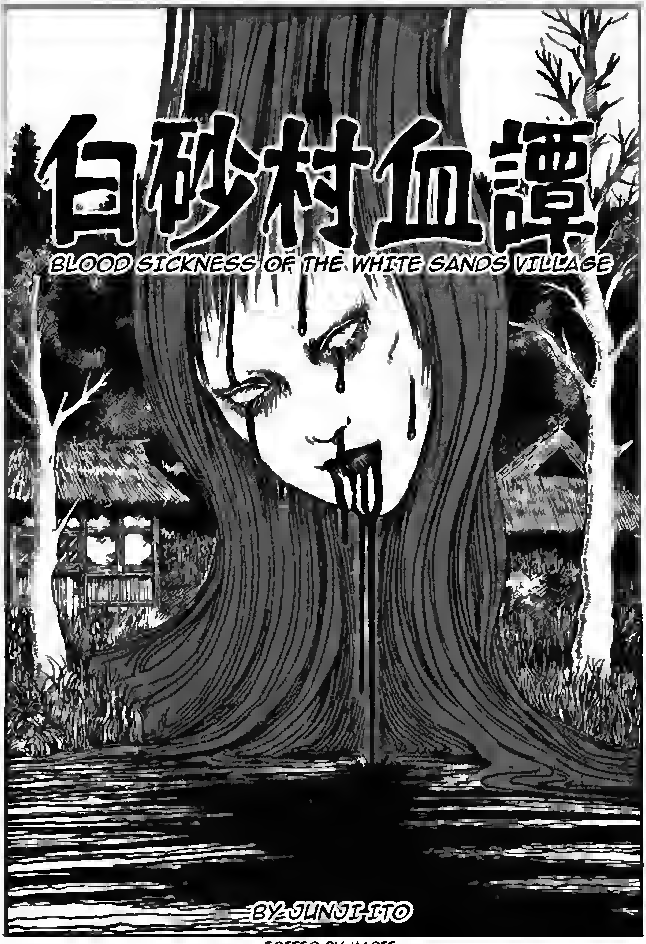

GIGANTIC HAIRBALL TREES KEPT ON SPRING-ING UP ALL OVER JAPAN.
LOUD SOUNDS AND SCREECHES WERE BLARING EVERY-WHERE.


BUT AS ANY OTHER TREE, THE HAIRBALL TREES FACED THE SAME FATE AND WERE CHOPPED DOWN.
SO, IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WOULDN'T THEY FACE EXTINCTION?

I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOME-THING.
IT'S AT THE HILL BEHIND OUR SCHOOL.
HEY ANZU, CAN YOU GO SOME-WHERE WITH ME?
SURE, BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING, RYOICHI?
I DISCOVERED IT YESTERDAY...
THAT...
THIS? WHAT ABOUT IT?



浮遊物＊おわり
DRIFTING SPORES END

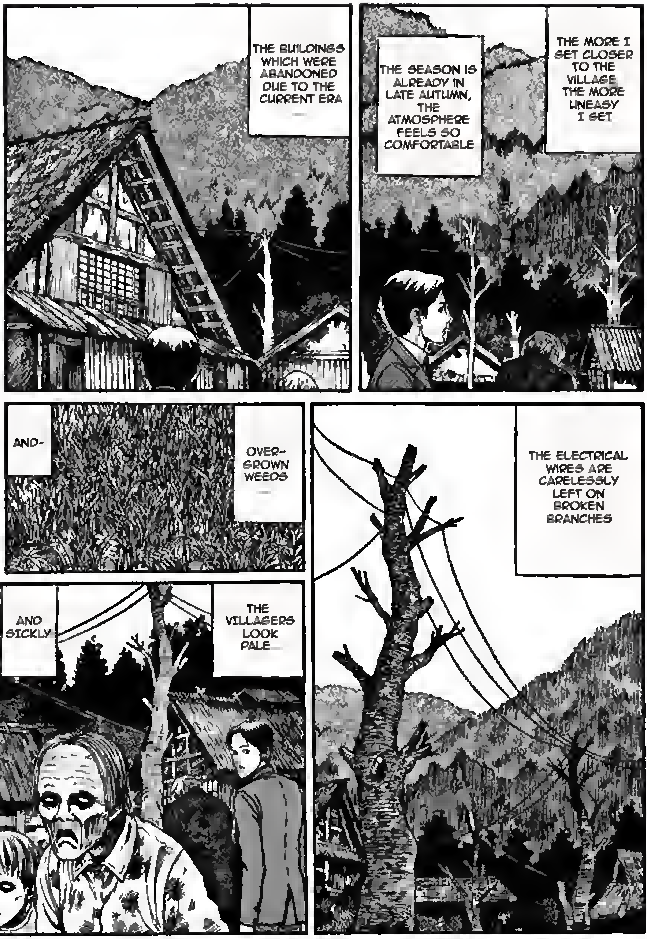


EDITED BY MARIE
TRANSLATED BY JO
SLUG-CHICKS.BLOGSPOT.COM

THE VILLAGE CHIEF SAID HE WILL BE WAITING AT THE MOUNTAIN TOP.

I'M WHITE SANDS VILLAGE'S VILLAGE CHIEF
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TRIP
NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M DR. FURUHATA.
YOU'RE FROM THE CITY SO YOU MAY FIND IT INCONVENIENT
THERE IS NO PROPER PATHWAY FROM HERE ONWARDS...
THIS IS THE DIRECTION TO THE WHITE SANDS VILLAGE...
THE VILLAGE CHIEF LOOKS LIKE HE IS IN A VERY BAD CONDITION

DO NOT WISH FOR THE VILLAGE TO DEVELOP
THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE
THAT WAY, IT CAN HELP THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS VILLAGE
DIDN'T ANYONE SUGGEST TO CREATE A PATHWAY?


THE BUILDINGS WHICH WERE ABANDONED DUE TO THE CURRENT ERA
THE SEASON IS ALREADY IN LATE AUTUMN, THE ATMOSPHERE FEELS SO COMFORTABLE
THE MORE I GET CLOSER TO THE VILLAGE THE MORE UNEASY I GET
AND-
OVER-GROWN WEEDS
THE ELECTRICAL WIRES ARE CARELESSLY LEFT ON BROKEN BRANCHES
AND SICKLY
THE VILLAGERS LOOK PALE

THE TREES ARE SWAYING IN A SIMILAR PATTERN AS THE SHAKE
AN UNUSUAL TREMOR WHICH IS COMING FROM SOMEWHERE
IS IT JUST ME BEING OVERSENSITIVE?
WHAT IS IT?
I FELT A STRANGE TREMOR...
YES?
VILLAGE CHIEF
I DIDN'T SENSE IT...
I DON'T KNOW TREMOR ?

白砂村診療所
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SIGN: WHITE SANDS VILLAGE CLINIC
IN ADDITION, PROVIDING TREATMENT SERVICE IN VILLAGES IS THE ROAD I SHOULD WORK TOWARDS
I BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT I SHOULD DO AS A DOCTOR
NO DOCTOR HAS VISITED THIS VILLAGE AFTER THE PREVIOUS DOCTOR HAD PASSED AWAY 10 YEARS AGO
WE ARE REALLY THANKFUL THAT YOU, AN AMAZING DOCTOR, IS ABLE TO COME TO THIS REMOTE VILLAGE
SHE WILL BE YOUR ASSISTANT
SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO HAD WORKED AS A NURSE IN THIS VILLAGE. KIKUGAMI SHIZU

PLEASE... TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME..
I'M STILL A NOVICE PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME
HELLO.....
OF COURSE I WILL TRY MY UTMOST IN AIDING YOU TOO
YOU CAN ASK KIKUGAMI IF YOU RE UNSURE OF ANYTHING REGARDING THE VILLAGE
THIS IS AN OLD WATER WELL, IT HAS PROBABLY GOTTEN RUSTY?
THE WATER MAY TURN RED SOMETIMES, BUT NO WORRIES
AH, AND OUR VILLAGE DOES NOT HAVE OUR OWN WATER SUPPLY, PLEASE USE THE WELL WATER AT THE BACK...
HOWEVER THE WATER QUALITY HAS NO PROBLEM..

OH, THE WIND IS BLOWING.
GUESS IT WILL BE WINDY TONIGHT?
VILLAGE CHIEF, THANK YOU, I'LL START THE CONSULTATION TOMORROW
THANK YOU SO MUCH. I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOUR CARE.
SO DOCTOR I'M MAKING MY LEAVE
カタン
白砂村診療所
ゴー
AH, KIKUSAMI. SORRY TO MAKE YOU STAY THIS LATE.
THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR THE HELP TOMORROW
DOCTOR, I'M GOING HOME NOW
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ガタガタ
THE WIND IS REALLY BLOWING STRONGLY

AH... BY THE WAY, KIKU-SAMI
I FOUND THE OLD MEDICAL RECORDS WHILE I WAS SORTING OUT THE DRAWER.
FROM THE DATA, IT SEEMS LIKE MANY VILLAGERS HAVE ANEMIA.
MENTIONING ABOUT IT, EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE LOOKS VERY PALE...
I'M SORRY TO ASK THIS BUT DO YOU HAVE ANEMIA TOO?
YES...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
AS I EXPECT...
WHAT IS THE REASON?
HA. THIS VILLAGE SELDOM COMES IN CONTACT WITH OTHER VILLAGES.
THEREFORE, OUR VILLAGE ALWAYS HAS INTERMARRIAGES.
MAJORITY OF THE VILLAGERS PROBABLY INHERIT THEIR ANCESTORS' GENES...
SO I SEE. HEREDITARY...

THE COUNTS OF PEOPLE WITH BLOOD TYPE AB IS HIGHER. STRANGE ENOUGH, IT'S USUALLY THE OTHER WAY ROUND.
THEN, IS IT THE SAME REASON THAT MAJORITY OF THE VILLAGERS HAVE THE BLOOD TYPE AS?
IS THAT SO? MINE IS O TYPE
AB BLOOD-TYPE
OH YES, WHAT'S YOUR BLOOD TYPE?
BUT BASICALLY THERE'S ONLY TRANSFUSION OF THE SAME BLOOD TYPE RIGHT NOW
I USED TO BELIEVE PEOPLE WITH O BLOOD TYPE IS AT A DISAD-VANTAGE
ON THE OTHER HAND, ALTHOUGH PEOPLE WITH O TYPE IS ABLE TO DONATE THEIR BLOOD TO OTHERS, THEY CAN'T ACCEPT BLOOD TRANSFUSION FROM OTHERS
PEOPLE USED TO SAY AB TYPE IS THE LUCKIEST BECAUSE IN THE DURATION OF BLOOD TRANSFUSION, PEOPLE WITH AB TYPE ARE ABLE TO ACCEPT ANY OTHER BLOOD GROUP'S BLOOD TRANSFUSION..
BECAUSE BLOOD AGGLUTINATION MAY OCCUR IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WILL CLUMP TOGETHER

NEXT
NEXT DAY
BUT MY BODY STILL FEELS VERY EXHAUSTED.
I DID
DID YOU CONSUME NUTRITION ON TIME?
YOUR CONDITION LOOKS VERY BAD.
LOOK AT YOUR COMPLEXION, OF COURSE YOU'LL FEEL TIRED.

I CAN'T HEAR THE SOUND OF HIS HEART-BEAT!
WEIRD ... THIS PATIENT
KIKU-GAMI!
..KIKUGAMI, HELP THIS PATIENT TO MEASURE HIS BLOOD PRESSURE!
HOW... HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?
THE HEART MUST BE BEATING WEAKER THAN USUAL THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T HEAR IT PRO-PERLY
DOCTOR THERE'S AN EMER-GENCY
EH...?

WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?
SHE'S MY SISTER, AND SHE JUST STARTED BLEEDING
PLEASE HELP HER BANDAGE
SHE IS BLEEDING PROFUSELY! DID SHE GOT KNOCKED DOWN BY A CAR?
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NO, SHE WAS JUST PLAYING OUTSIDE AND SHE STARTED BLEEDING
BLEEDING .. WHY?

PLEASE BANDAGE HER QUICK...
NO DOCTOR, SHE IS MERELY BLEEDING.
IS IT YOUR HEAD?
YOU MUST BE INJURED SOMEWHERE?
THIS HAPPENS FREQUENTLY TO THE VILLAGERS, THE BLEEDING WILL NATURALLY STOP IF YOU JUST LEAVE IT ALONE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THIS
SO IS SHE SICK WITH A CERTAIN DISEASE?
JUST BLEEDING?
DOCTOR
IT HAPPENS TO ME OCCASIONALLY...
THIS IS VERY COMMON
ME TOO...
THE VILLAGERS OFTEN BLEED LIKE THIS?
YOU'RE RIGHT
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? KIKUSAMI, WHAT IS HAPPENING?

EVERY PART OF OUR BODY WILL SUDDENLY START BLEEDING NON-STOP
JUST LIKE HER...
I DON'T WANT THAT... WE DON'T WISH TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE...
WHAT HAPPENS IF IT IS A DISEASE?
IT'S MORE APPROPRIATE TO GET A CHECKUP IN A HOSPITAL.
IF THIS IS TRUE, THEN THE MORE I CAN'T LEAVE IT AS IT IS?
OKAY...
FOR YOUR SISTER'S WELL-BEING, I WISH TO GET SOME OF HER BLOOD SAMPLE FOR A CHECKUP PLEASE BRING HER HERE TOMORROW
...THIS... ANYWAY..
DO NOT LET HER HAVE HER BREAK-FAST.

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..WHAT AN ODD VILLAGE
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..THE PATIENTS ARE ALL WEIRD
AT THIS TIME
MOS-QUITO
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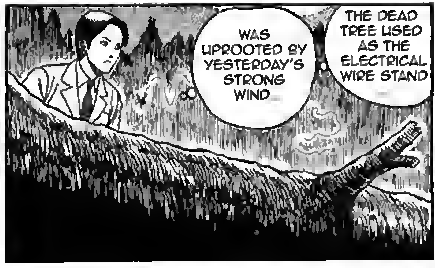
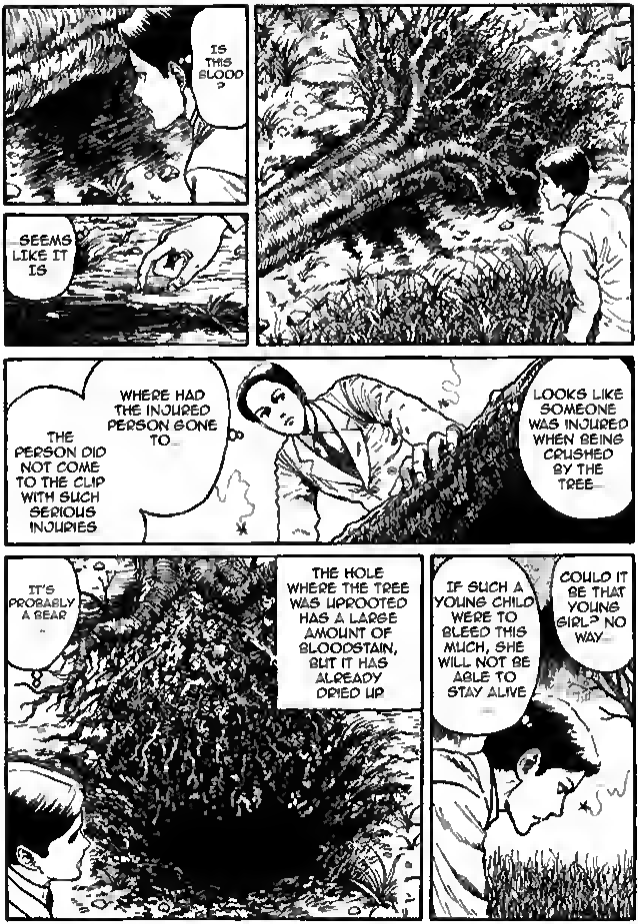
OH?


THE DEAD TREE USED AS THE ELECTRICAL WIRE STAND
WAS UPROOTED BY YESTERDAY'S STRONG WIND


IS THIS BLOOD?
SEEMS LIKE IT IS
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE WAS INJURED WHEN BEING CRUSHED BY THE TREE...
WHERE HAD THE INJURED PERSON GONE TO...
THE PERSON DID NOT COME TO THE CLIP WITH SUCH SERIOUS INJURIES
COULD IT BE THAT YOUNG GIRL? NO WAY...
IF SUCH A YOUNG CHILD WERE TO BLEED THIS MUCH, SHE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STAY ALIVE
THE HOLE WHERE THE TREE WAS UPROOTED HAS A LARGE AMOUNT OF BLOODSTAIN, BUT IT HAS ALREADY DRIED UP
IT'S PROBABLY A BEAR...

MOREOVER MOST OF THE VILLAGERS HAVE THE SAME BLOOD EXPERIENCE
IS THIS DUE TO INHERITANCE OR HEMOFILTRATION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE?
...YES PROFESSOR SHIGATA, I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH SYMPTOMS BEFORE
THANK YOU, PROFES-SOR
YES
IS THAT SO?
SEND ME THE PATIENT'S BLOOD SAMPLE, AND I'LL DO SOME INVESTIGATION
SINCE I HAVE NOT SEEN IT FOR MYSELF, I'M UNABLE TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT, BUT I'M VERY INTERESTED

SUNAGAMI
NEXT PATIENT
NEXT DAY
WHERE'S YOUR SISTER?
EH?
I'M HERE
I WANT TO HELP YOU
SO I'M COMING IN HER PLACE FOR THE CHECK-UP
SHE'S UNABLE TO MAKE IT, SINCE SHE HAD ALREADY EATEN HER BREAKFAST

I'M THE ONE WHO WISH TO HELP
TO DO A CHECK UP, FINDING THE REASON IS NOT FOR MY OWN GOOD, BUT YOURS
PLEASE SIT
WE'LL NEED TO DRAW BLOOD KIKU-GAMI, YOU'LL DO IT'
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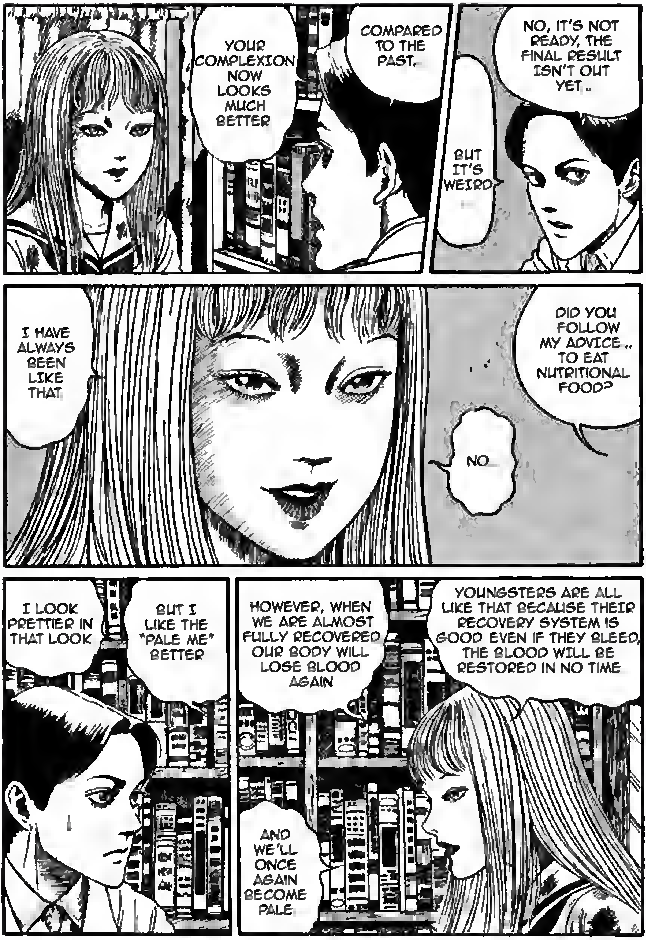
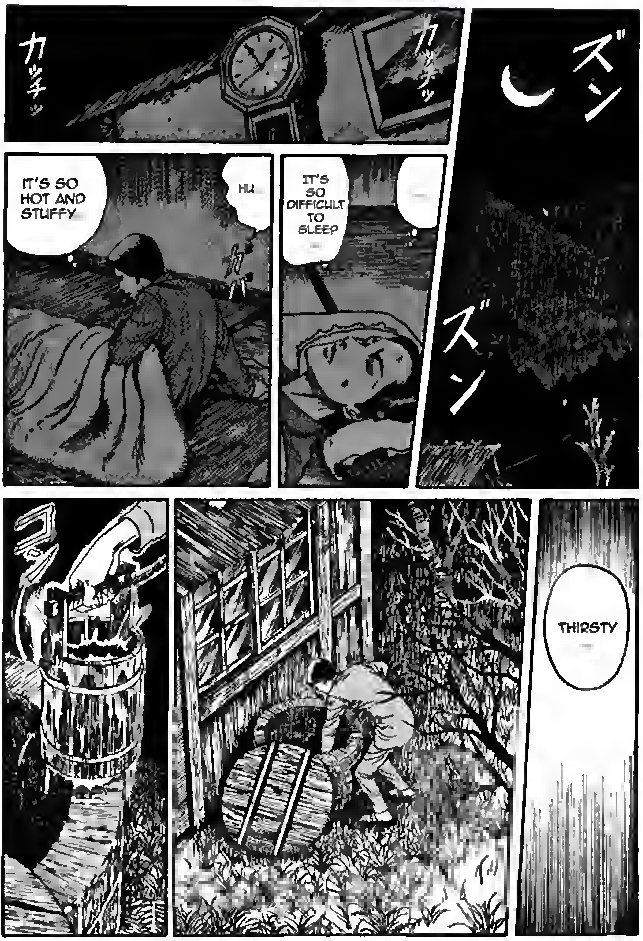
スン
IT HAS BEEN TWO WEEKS IN THIS VILLAGE
AND I STILL HAVE AN OBNOXIOUS FEELING DURING MY STAY HERE
DOCTOR, IS THE CHECK-UP REPORT READY?
EVER SINCE THAT TIME, SUNAGAMI RIYO HAVE BEEN VISITING THE CLINIC DAILY


YOUR COMPLEXION NOW LOOKS MUCH BETTER
COMPARED TO THE PAST..
NO, IT'S NOT READY, THE FINAL RESULT ISN'T OUT YET..
BUT IT'S WEIRD
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT
DID YOU FOLLOW MY ADVICE.. TO EAT NUTRITIONAL FOOD?
NO
I LOOK PRETTIER IN THAT LOOK
BUT I LIKE THE "PALE ME" BETTER
HOWEVER, WHEN WE ARE ALMOST FULLY RECOVERED OUR BODY WILL LOSE BLOOD AGAIN
AND WE'LL ONCE AGAIN BECOME PALE
YOUNGSTERS ARE ALL LIKE THAT BECAUSE THEIR RECOVERY SYSTEM IS GOOD EVEN IF THEY BLEED, THE BLOOD WILL BE RESTORED IN NO TIME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IT'S SO HOT AND STUFFY
HU
IT'S SO DIFFICULT TO SLEEP
THIRSTY

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IS IT RUST? OR IRON ODOUR...
TASTE LIKE BLOOD HAS BEEN MIXED INSIDE...
THE WATER STILL TASTE AS HORRIBLE AS EVER...
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CAUSING ME TO FEEL EVEN MORE UNEASY
I SHALL GO BLOW SOME NIGHT WIND

I CAN HEAR A DISTINCT SOUND
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A NIGHT LIKE THIS, I'M ABLE TO FEEL IT CLEARER NOW
THE STRANGE TREMOR
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WHERE IS THE SOUND COMING FROM?
DOCTOR!
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AH!
IT'S GETTING LOUDER
IN FRONT THERE'S SOME-THING...
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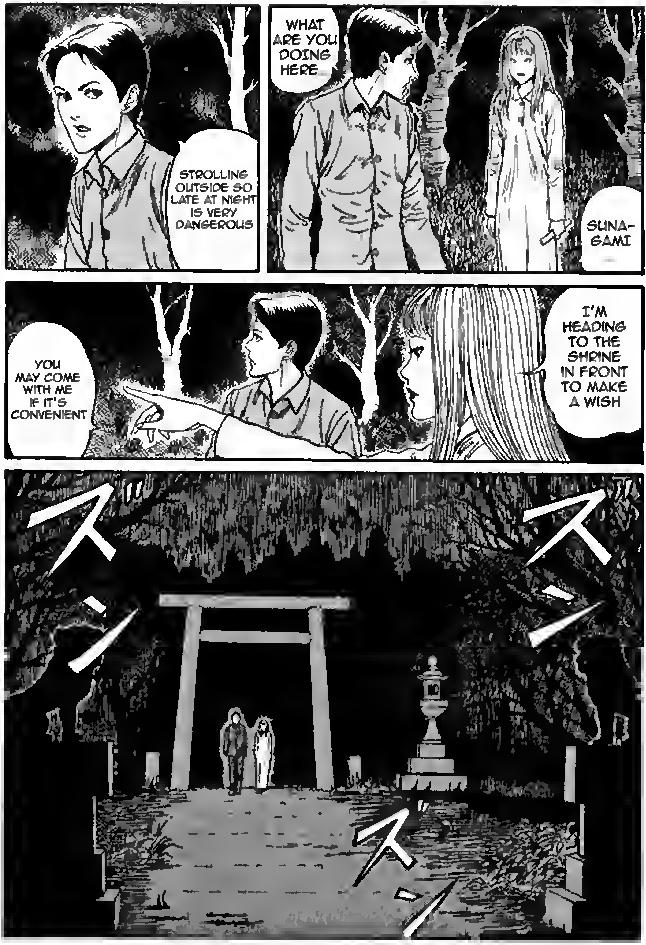
STROLLING OUTSIDE SO LATE AT NIGHT IS VERY DANGEROUS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...
SUNA-GAMI
I'M HEADING TO THE SHRINE IN FRONT TO MAKE A WISH
YOU MAY COME WITH ME IF IT'S CONVENIENT
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ズ、ズ、

I HEARD THAT THIS SHRINE USED TO OFFER YOUNG GIRL'S BLOOD AS A GOD'S OFFERING
DOCTOR
SEEMS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM THE GROUND OF THE SHRINE
THE SOUND AND THE TREMOR
ズ ン ズ ン
UNTIL NOW, WHILE MAKING A WISH, WE WILL OFFER OUR BLOOD TO THE SHRINE'S GROUND.
I COME HERE TO MAKE WISHES FREQUENTLY TOO. MAKING USE OF THE CHANCE WHEN MY BODY IS REPLENISHED WITH BLOOD
Y YOU!
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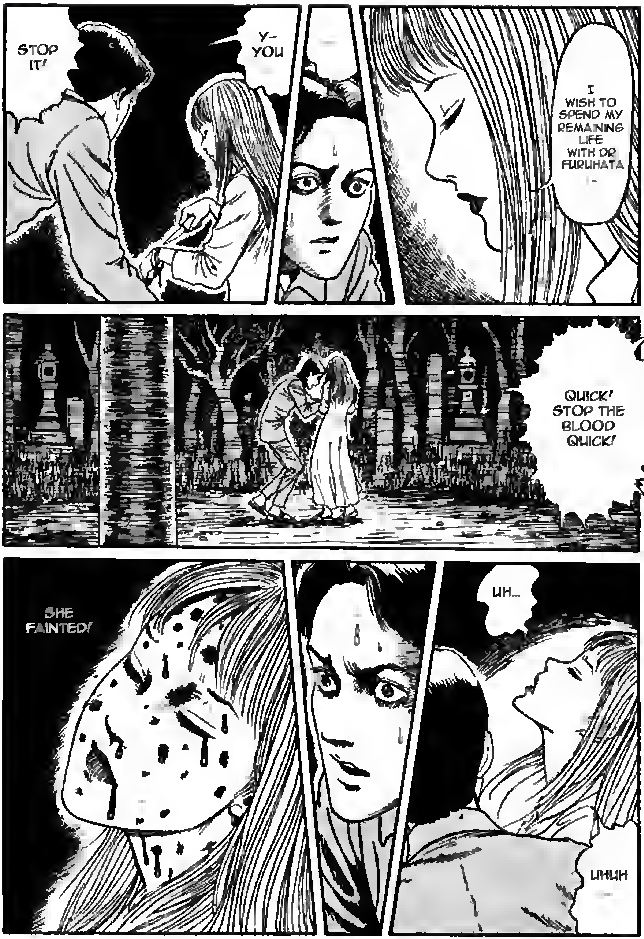
LIKE THIS


STOP IT!
Y-YOU
I WISH TO SPEND MY REMAINING LIFE WITH DR FURUHATA
QUICK! STOP THE BLOOD QUICK!
SHE FAINTED!
UH...
UHUH

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DOCTOR... FEELS LIKE IT'S STARTING SOON...
SUNAGAMI!

SHE'S BLEEDING SO MUCH!
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
SUNA-GAMI!
WHY IS SHE... BLEEDING SO MUCH...
WAS ABSORBED BY THE GROUND IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME
THE LARGE AMOUNT OF BLOOD THAT WAS BLEEDING FROM SUNAGAMI RIYO'S BODY...

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DOCTOR
I'M GOING BACK
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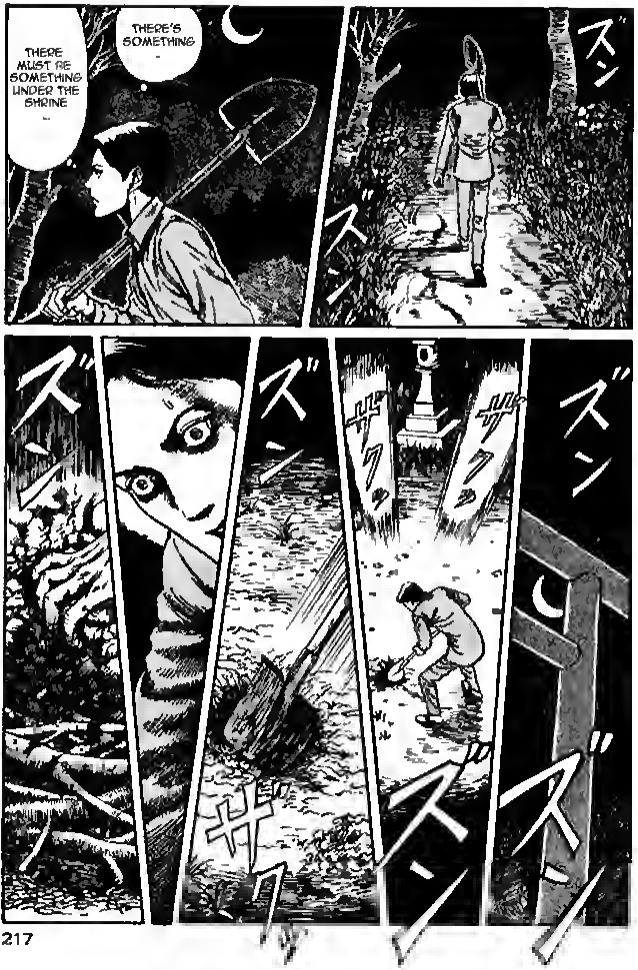
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING UNDER THE SHRINE
THERE'S SOMETHING
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NO
ROOTS ?
THIS ?
WHAT IS
IS THIS BLOOD ?
JUST LIKE A BLOOD ARTERY
AND SOFT
IT'S WARM
THIS SCRATCH MUST BE FROM THE SHOVEL
BLEEDING
SIMILAR TO AN ANIMAL'S VEIN-
JUST WHAT IS THE WHOLE THING ABOUT?

I'VE TAKEN IT BACK AS A SPECIMEN
IT FROZE UP IMMEDIATELY WHICH LOOKS LIKE A JELLY SUBSTANCE
JUST LIKE HOW THE BLOOD FROM WOUNDS WILL CLOT UP...
THAT "BLOOD-LIKE SUBSTANCE" WHICH FLOWS OUT FROM THE "ARTERY-LIKE OBJECT"
THIS IS BLOOD
TO ADD ON
IT CAN'T BE WRONG
トクン
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HAS A VEIN WHICH FLOWS HUMAN BLOOD
THE SHRINE'S UNDER-GROUND
THIS IS HUMAN'S BLOOD!
BLOOD GROUP AB!

I'VE SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES! DOES THE VILLAGERS KNOW ABOUT THE TRUTH?
白砂村役場
DOCTOR, IS THIS WHAT YOU SAW IN YOUR DREAM?
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR HUMAN BLOOD TO BE STREAMING UNDER-GROUND ...
I BELIEVE THIS IS RELATED TO THE VILLAGERS' SUDDEN BLEEDING
UNFORTUNATELY, I'M BUSY
THEN LET'S GO SEE IT TOGETHER!
IF YOU WERE TO HEAD TO THE SHRINE AND SEE IT FOR YOURSELF-

AH!
THINKING BACK, IT CAN'T BE HELPED TOO
THE VILLAGE CHIEF IGNORED ME
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ズン
THE BLOOD HAS BEEN ABSORBED BY THE GROUND INSTANTLY
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IT'S THE SAME AS WHAT I'VE SEEN AT THE SHRINE
MAYBE IT'S UNDER THIS TOO
WHAT IS HE DOING THERE?
ISN'T THAT THE NEW DOCTOR?
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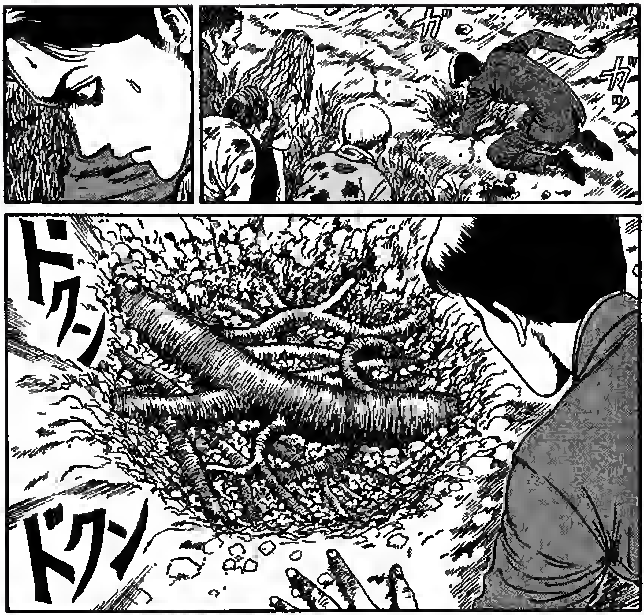
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THIS! LOOK AT THIS!
EVERYONE!

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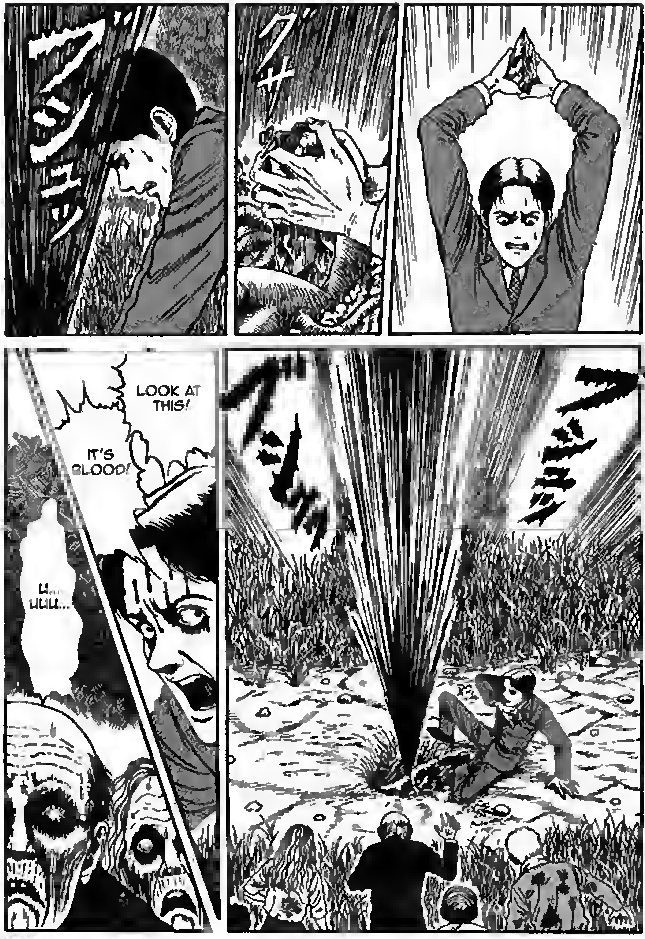
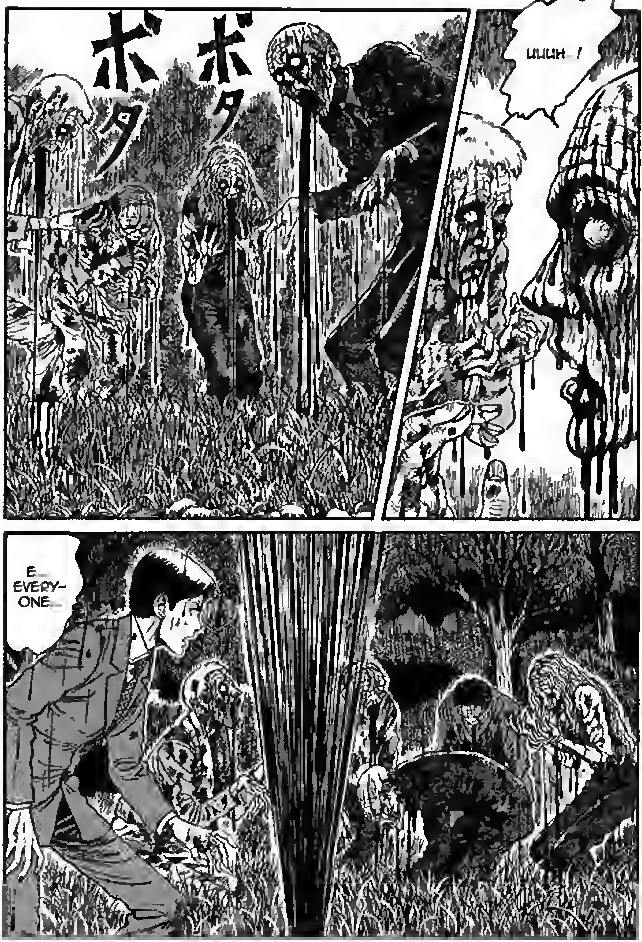
THIS IS THE PULSE MOVE-MENT
ドクン

HUMAN BLOOD IS FLOWING IN IT!
THIS IS BLOOD VEIN!
AND THERE IS A BIG POSSIBILITY THAT IT IS RELATED TO ALL OF YOUR ILLNESS!
CAN YOU ALL BELIEVE IT? THERE IS A CONTINUOUS CYCLE OF HUMAN BLOOD UNDER THIS PLACE!
ALL OF YOUR BLOOD HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY UNKNOWINGLY!
MY SPECULATION CAN'T BE WRONG!
YOUR BLOOD HAS BEEN ABSORBED BY THIS BLOOD VEIN!
AND THERE'S AN ABNORMALLY THICK BLOOD VEIN UNDERNEATH!
THE BLOOD THAT WAS BLEEDING FROM YOUR BODY WAS SOAKED INTO THE GROUND STRAIGHT AWAY!
WHAT IS ALL OF THESE EXACTLY ABOUT?

ALL OF YOU, LISTEN! CAN'T YOU HEAR THE SOUND?!
NO WAY! DO TREE ROOTS HAVE ANY PULSE?
THOSE ARE NOTHING BUT ROOTS
WHAT IS THIS DOCTOR TALKING ABOUT?
HOW'S THAT? DON'T YOU ALL THINK IT SOUNDS VERY SIMILAR TO THE BEATS OF A HEART?
THAT SOUND IS COMING FROM THE GROUND OF THE SHRINE!
THIS IS THE BLOOD VEIN WHICH I HAD MENTIONED TO YOU BEFORE!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
AH! VILLAGE CHIEF!
EVERYONE, WHAT'S HAPPENING?

PLEASE LOOK AT THIS
I'M GOING TO PROVE NOW THAT BLOOD FLOWS IN IT
DO NOT DO ANYTHING SILLY!
AH... DOCTOR, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
THAT... THAT IS JUST AN ORDINARY WATER CHANNEL...
THAT SHOULD BE THE SAS PIPE THEN
AAH
VILLAGE CHIEF, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IS THERE SUCH A WATER CHANNEL?
WHAT? WATER CHANNEL..?
ALSO THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY WATER CHANNEL IN THIS VILLAGE, RIGHT?


LOOK AT THIS!
IT'S BLOOD!
U...UUU...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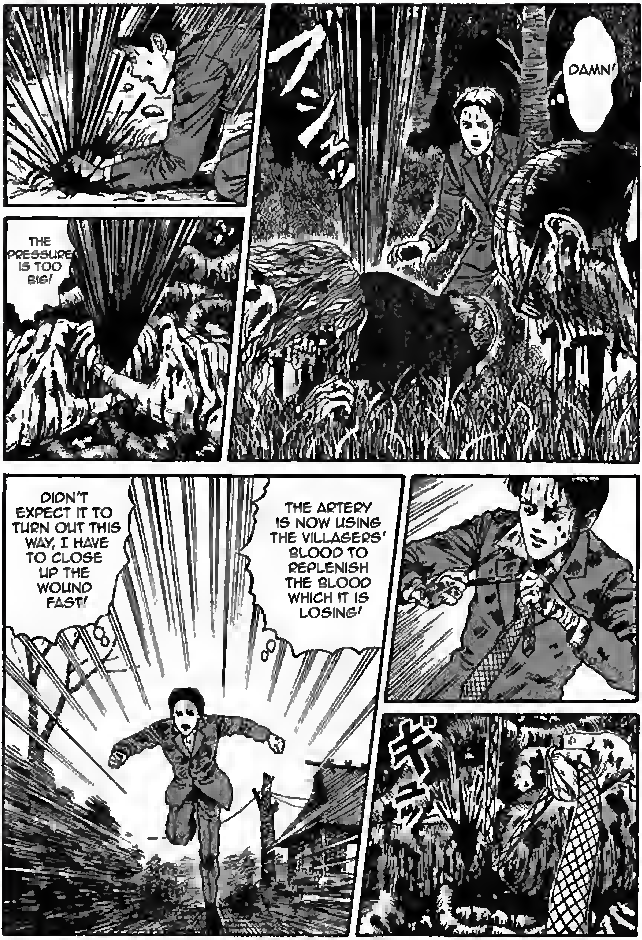
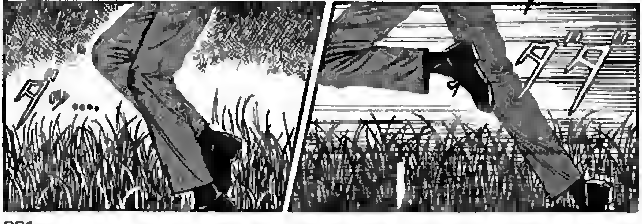
UUUH !
E-EVERY-ONE...


DAMN!
THE PRESSURE IS TOO BIG!
DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO TURN OUT THIS WAY, I HAVE TO CLOSE UP THE WOUND FAST!
THE ARTERY IS NOW USING THE VILLAGERS' BLOOD TO REPLENISH THE BLOOD WHICH IT IS LOSING!

THOSE THAT I DID NOT NOTICE PREVIOUSLY, HAD NOW SURFACED CLEARLY!
I CAN SEE IT...

OOH

IF I DON'T HASTEN UP...!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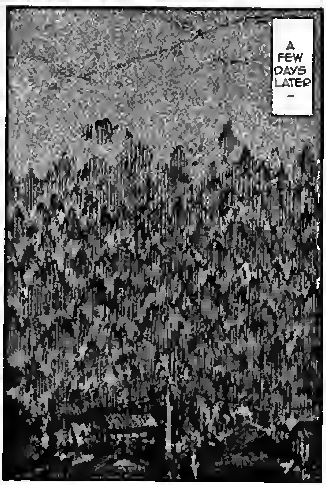
UH
WHY...
EVEN ME AS WELL...

IS ANYONE IN ? FURUHATA ...!
I'M SORRY-


A FEW DAYS LATER ...

I'M HERE TO DISCUSS ABOUT THE VILLAGE'S UNUSUAL ILLNESS WITH DOCTOR FURUHATA
AH... I'M SHIBATA FROM MINAMI UNIVERSITY...
YOU ARE?
COMING
VERY PALE INDEED...
I'LL GET HIM HERE RIGHT NOW...
GOOD AFTERNOON, PROFESSOR, HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A LONG TIME
FU FURU-HATA...